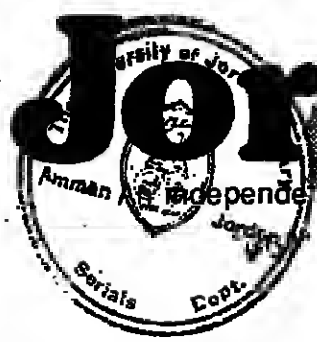


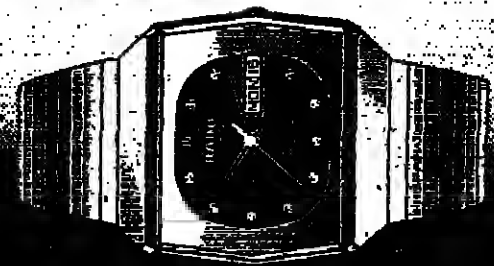
Soviets expel British attache

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union Friday ordered Britain's naval attache, Capt. Bruce Richardson, to leave the country within a week, the British embassy announced. The expulsion was announced two weeks after the British government ordered out the Soviet naval attache in London on charges of spying. The spokesman said ambassador Sir Iain Sutherland was summoned to the Foreign Ministry Friday and told that Capt. Richardson should be withdrawn within seven days. He added that the embassy considered the expulsion was clearly connected with the treatment of the Soviet naval attache, Capt. Anatoli Zotov.



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Britain hopes Arab team can visit in February

LONDON (R) — Britain hopes a postponed visit of an Arab League delegation to explain a pan-Arab Middle East peace plan can now take place in February, Deputy Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Friday. He denied reports that Britain had compromised its position over the presence in the seven-man delegation of a Palestinian representative. The visit was postponed because Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher refused to meet a representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Asked if the Foreign Office had reached a compromise over the PLO representative Mr. Hurd said: "We haven't." Reports that a compromise had been reached came last week after former Minister Lord Chalfont, acting on behalf of the government, went to Morocco for talks with King Hassan, who was due to head the delegation.

Israel developing new air to sea missile

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel Aircraft Industries (IAI) has a new sophisticated air to sea missile in the final stages of development, its designer and manufacturer has announced. The new missile is described as a development of the IAI-designed Gabriel sea to sea missile which has had a high success rate in sea battles, according to Israel army sources. The new development, called the Gabriel Mark 3 air to sea missile, can be fitted to a wide range of aircraft. According to data released Thursday the Gabriel Mark 3 has a range of more than 60 kilometres with a warhead of 140 kilograms. The 3.85 metre long missile, fitted with an active radar guidance system, can be fired either fully independently using its radar guidance system to lock onto target, or fired with the aircraft pilot correcting its course until shortly before hitting its target, its manufacturers say.

2 U.S. submarines collide at sea

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. nuclear-powered submarines collided at sea off San Francisco Thursday, but no one was injured and there was only minor damage to one of the vessels, the navy said Friday. Navy officials said the submarine La Jolla was at periscope depth and the submarine Permit was on the surface when the accident happened during routine sea trials. The two attack submarines, each with their normal complement of 120 men aboard, were now at the Mare Island shipyard in San Francisco, navy said. The officials said La Jolla, commissioned last year, sustained damage to its upper rudder section, but the Permit, commissioned in 1962, suffered no apparent damage.

Earthquake kills miners in Afghanistan

KABUL (R) — At least six people were killed when an earthquake damaged Afghanistan's biggest underground coal mine Thursday, Kabul Radio said Friday. In a broadcast monitored by Reuters, the radio said a number of people were injured by a tremor, which was measured 6.0 on the Richter scale in neighbouring Pakistan. The Peshawar Meteorological Station in Pakistan placed the epicentre of the tremor in the same immediate area as the Karkar coalmine which is located in the rugged Hindu Kush mountains 160 kilometres north of Kabul. The radio, whose report came 36 hours after the tremor was felt, said some rescues at the mine were delayed and "urgent measures" were taken. The quake was also felt in the capital, the radio said, its only mention of damage at the mine. Afghan refugees across said the coalmine normally employs about 1,000 miners. They said it may be a bitter blow to the country if mining was interrupted in the depth of winter.

Habib, Gemayel continue talks on withdrawal

BEIRUT (R) — U.S. special envoy Philip Habib met Lebanese President Amin Gemayel Friday on the latest stage of his mission to secure the withdrawal of all Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon.

Mr. Habib held two hours of talks with Lebanese President Amin Gemayel. He left declining to say anything about the substance of his talks but looking relaxed. Both Israeli and Lebanese officials have been expressing optimism about the United States' renewed efforts to achieve the withdrawal of foreign forces from Lebanon but it is not yet clear exactly what progress has been made. The reliable Beirut newspaper An-Nahar reported this week that the United States was proposing a two-stage programme of phased withdrawals. In the first stage, U.S. envoys would hold separate talks with the various parties to arrange withdrawals from the mountains east of Beirut. The separate talks formula would get round the problem caused by the inability of Israel and Lebanon to agree on a procedure for direct negotiations. In the second stage, with confidence boosted by the withdrawals from the mountains, Israel and Lebanon would then make a new attempt to hold direct talks on the final pullout of Israeli forces, the report said. Israeli sources in Jerusalem said Mr. Habib had proposed that the direct talks should take place in a neutral country. Mr. Begin had replied that he would put the idea to the cabinet on Sunday. Neither side gave details of Mr. Habib's discussions with Prime Minister Menachem Begin earlier Friday, which were almost overshadowed by remarks by hawkish defence minister, Ariel Sharon. The minister, who has clashed with the United States over the Lebanon issue, told Israeli interviewers he had been conducting direct talks with the Lebanese for the past few months and a breakthrough was imminent. In one interview, in the afternoon newspaper Maariv, Mr. Sharon virtually suggested the U.S. was not fully in the picture on the state of Israeli-Lebanese contacts. The Jerusalem Post said it seemed Mr. Sharon, who was snubbed by the Reagan administration during a trip to the U.S. this month, wanted to remind the Americans that Israeli and Lebanese officials were in regular contact. Mr. Habib and his fellow Middle East envoy Morris Draper had hoped to arrange a withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces from Lebanon this year. Negotiations have been delayed because Lebanon rejected Israel's demand that Jerusalem be one of the venues for talks and that they also cover normalising relations.

Rescue teams fight hard to dig out survivors in Dhamar

SANAA, North Yemen (R) — Rescue teams raced against time Friday to attempt to dig out more survivors of the earthquake which hit Dhamar province on Monday and is estimated to have killed more than 2,000 people. Rescue workers are operating in mountainous areas high above sea level and in some almost inaccessible places. One of them said: "We are engaged in one of the most difficult operations. Prospects of finding more survivors are dimming. It is four days now since the earthquake hit and the lack of oxygen at such heights added to the problem." Officials said 1,450 bodies had been recovered so far and 1,500 injured were taken to hospitals. They expect the death toll to top 2,000 as the tremor hit one of the country's densely populated regions southwest of Sanaa and about 400,000 people were made homeless. Refugees are packed in temporary camps but many are still without shelter and the government has appealed for more tents. Further damage to the devastated area was caused when four more tremors, not as strong as Monday's, struck the region on Wednesday, eyewitnesses said Friday. More than 250 villages were damaged, including 15 razed to the ground, they added. Saudi Arabia has established an airlift to carry hundreds of tons of relief supplies to North Yemen. It has donated 100 million riyals (\$29 million) in financial aid. U.S. Air Force planes are also flying in relief supplies, the Defence Department said in Washington. Planesload of supplies and more than 300 medical personnel have arrived from other countries. The earthquake was one of the biggest natural disasters to hit this Red Sea country. In a mountain village southwest of Sanaa, many rock-built houses erected on high cliffs were completely destroyed. Bulldozers were removing tons of rubble.

Kohl loses confidence vote

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl opened the way Friday for an early general election in March by intentionally losing a vote of confidence in parliament. After a lengthy debate in which the centre-right government and the Social Democratic (SPD) opposition exchanged pre-election broadsides, most of Mr. Kohl's supporters abstained to deny him the majority required for a confidence vote. The chancellor, whose motion was defeated by 218 votes to eight, with 248 abstentions, immediately asked President Karl Carstens to dissolve parliament and call elections on March 6. Mr. Carstens has until Jan. 7 to decide, but political sources said he would meet the request despite constitutional doubts raised by several deputies during Friday's debate. Mr. Kohl confidently expects to be returned to office with an increased majority in March. Defending his record in the 11 weeks since he overthrew SPD Chancellor Helmut Schmidt with the help of the Free Democrats (FDP), who switched allegiance, Mr. Kohl said his "coalition of the middle" had launched West Germany on the road to economic recovery. All four parliamentary parties and a vast majority of the population wanted to vote now, he said.

U.S. has no comment on Jordanian-Palestinian action

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The Deputy State Department spokesman Alan Romberg said he would have no comment on reports from Amman that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has agreed that any future Palestinian entity will have a special relationship with Jordan. The matter is one the United States "doubtless would want to be discussing privately" with King Hussein when he visits Washington next week, Mr. Romberg said. On a related matter, Mr. Romberg said the United States has not received any formal request from Jordan for U.S. missiles or military aircraft. If one were received, Mr. Romberg said, the United States would consider it in light of Washington's long standing concern for Jordan's security and also in light of other regional security concerns. In response to questions, Mr. Romberg said: "The State Department has received no licence applications for helicopters which are contained in either the munitions control list or the commodity control list from U.S. helicopter manufacturers for sales to Iraq." The Wall Street Journal reported on Dec. 15 that Hughes Helicopters Incorporated of Los Angeles, California, has agreed to sell 60 new commercial helicopters to Iraq for a reported \$25 million. The article said the helicopters were to be used for flight training, transportation and agricultural purposes. The article indicated it might be possible to convert at least some of the commercial helicopters to military use.

PLO official denies media report

AMMAN (Petra) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Najeh Al Ahmad, said Thursday that the report quoting him by some newspapers on Wednesday saying that the Palestine National Council (PNC) will convene in Algiers on Jan. 1, 1983 is groundless. He also denied making any statements to any newspaper to this effect.

Andropov to address Kremlin rally

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Communist Party leader Yuri Andropov will make his first major public speech since taking office at a Kremlin rally next week to mark the 60th anniversary of the Soviet Union. After five weeks in office Mr. Andropov, a bespectacled former head of the KGB security police, remains a shadowy figure not only to foreigners but to most of his fellow countrymen. On many subjects his views are still unknown but some of the questions he will be asked when he speaks at the Kremlin palace of congresses on Dec. 21. The occasion will be a ceremonial two-day joint session of the Communist Party Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet (parliament) and the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federation, the largest of the 15 republics. If the pattern of the 50th anniversary meeting in 1972 is repeated, Mr. Andropov will deliver a report lasting several hours on foreign and domestic policy. No guest list has been announced, but all the leaders of Moscow's Warsaw Pact ally states and delegations from other pro-Moscow Communist and leftist parties are expected for what will amount to a scaled-down party congress.

U.S. to sell arms to Jordan without any conditions

NEW YORK (Agencies) — The United States will support the sale of arms to Jordan without any condition that King Hussein join talks with Israel, Egypt and the United States on Palestinian self-rule, according to Edwin Meese, the presidential counselor. Mr. Meese, in his comments to the Long Island Jewish World published on Thursday, said that the issue of whether Jordan accepted the Camp David peace accords was "unrelated" to the arms sale.



Petra photo

Badran leaves for U.S.

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran left for the United States Friday to join King Hussein in talks with President Reagan and U.S. officials. Mr. Badran is expected to brief King Hussein on the outcome of this week's visit to Jordan by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and a meeting of a joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee. At the end of the meeting a communiqué said the two sides had agreed on a "distinctive and special relationship" between Jordan and a liberated Palestine. King Hussein is due to meet Mr. Reagan on Tuesday. Information Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Oseim left for Washington on Friday. A royal decree was issued appointing Finance Minister Saleh Masra'eh as acting prime minister during Mr. Badran's absence abroad. The prime minister (third from right in photo) was seen off by (from right to left) Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat, U.S. Charge d'Affaires in Amman Edward Jireldjian, NCC speaker Suleiman Arar, Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal and Minister of Public Works Awad Al Masri.

UNRWA workers condemn administration decision

By Lamis Andoni
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A meeting of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) workers Union Conference, which concluded its three-day sessions here Thursday, issued a statement condemning the UNRWA administration's decision which stipulated that all its absent workers should return to their respective places of work or face expulsion. The statement, issued by the UNRWA Interstaff Union Workers, explained that the 500 UNRWA employees who were forced to leave their areas in Lebanon during the Israeli invasion, cannot go back unless the UNRWA administration guarantees their safety because their working posts are either under Falangist or Israeli control. It also called for solidarity between UNRWA staff in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and asserted the importance of working in unison to solve their problems including relations between them and the UNRWA administration in the aftermath of demands for increase in salaries and the case of 123 detained UNRWA workers in Lebanon. The statement also condemned the UNRWA staff representatives, deplored in their statement the dismissal and the reduction of salaries of the agency's staff in West Bank who participated in the Day of the Land solidarity activities last March or protested against the agency's decision to suspend food ration to Palestinian refugees. The statement also condemned the ration cuts. The conference discussed amendments to the union's statute pertaining to coordination and cooperation of the different area committees. The representatives listened to reasons which compelled staff workers in Jordan and the West Bank not to sign a memorandum agreement adopted in Larnaca last October. Representatives of UNRWA staff in Jordan pointed out that the memorandum "ignored the staff demand and that the UNRWA resume paying their inflation allowance." They also protested against the method of negotiation carried out by the UNRWA administration. On the other hand, UNRWA Director of Personnel and Administration Robin Hopkins arrived in Amman Thursday to discuss the problems of UNRWA workers and resume talks with Jordanian officials started by UNRWA Commissioner General Olof Rydbeck two weeks ago.

Shultz 'reassured' about unity of NATO

LONDON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Friday he had been greatly reassured about the unity and determination of the NATO alliance during his seven-nation tour around Western Europe. Mr. Shultz, in London on the last leg of the trip, was speaking at a joint news conference with British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym after the two men had talks on a wide range of issues. "I feel on this trip in discussions here and elsewhere—everywhere without exception—a great sense of reassurance to the depth of understanding... and the sense of determination, unity and cohesion that I felt in our allies," he said. Mr. Shultz, in response to a question, declined to criticise anti-nuclear groups, saying only that they were a reminder about the strength of conviction on the goals of peace and justice. President Reagan had been criticised in the past for associating peace groups with left-wing agitation. Much of the questioning at the news conference concerned the control of U.S. cruise missiles to be stationed in Britain as part of NATO's modernisation of its nuclear forces. There have been suggestions in Britain, both from within the ruling Conservative Party and the opposition, that the government should seek dual control of the missiles instead of leaving them totally in "American hands". But both Mr. Pym and Shultz said control of the missiles was a NATO matter and there should be no change in arrangements that worked well in the past and which did not involve a so-called "dual key" arrangement. Mr. Shultz said policy towards the new Soviet leadership should be based on refusal to indulge in wishful thinking, strong defence, willingness to negotiate on problems and a belief that constructive solutions could achieve a better world. Shultz lauds multinational force, page 8

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KGB chief heads Soviet Interior Ministry

MOSCOW (R) — KGB security police chief Vitaly Fedorchuk was appointed to head the Soviet Interior Ministry Friday in a high-level reshuffle of Soviet security organs, TASS news agency reported. Mr. Fedorchuk, head of the KGB since May, replaces Nikolai Shchekolov, a close associate of the late President Leonid Brezhnev, as minister of Internal Affairs. The new head of the KGB will be Viktor Chebrikov, until now one of two first deputies to Mr. Fedorchuk. Mr. Fedorchuk is believed to be a close associate of Mr. Brezhnev's successor Yuri Andropov, who headed the KGB for 15 years until May. The KGB is responsible for guarding Soviet borders, foreign intelligence and counter-espionage, and for investigating serious crime, including political offences. The Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD) is in charge of the unformed Soviet police and of most criminal investigations. It also handles all questions concerning residence permits, passports and foreign travel.

Mr. Shchekolov was believed to be one of Mr. Brezhnev's closest friends and his imminent departure from the post of internal affairs minister had been widely rumoured since Mr. Brezhnev died. Mr. Shchekolov, 72, was a member of the so-called "Dnepropetrovsk group" named after the Ukrainian city where Mr. Brezhnev spent the early part of his political career. He was plucked from a relatively obscure position as second secretary of the Moldavian Communist Party in 1966 to head the Internal Affairs Ministry in Moscow and was promoted to Lieutenant General. His replacement, 64-year-old Mr. Fedorchuk, is a career KGB officer about whom little is known. His switch to the Ministry of Internal Affairs means that in effect both wings of the Soviet security apparatus will be headed by officials with a strong KGB background. Mr. Chebrikov, 59, also comes from Dnepropetrovsk but is of a younger generation than Mr. Brezhnev and Mr. Shchekolov.

He was a party official in the Ukraine until 1967 when he moved to Moscow to head the KGB's Cadres (personnel) Department. He was appointed a deputy chairman of the KGB in 1968 and became one of the two first deputies early this year. The security shakeup coincides with signs that Mr. Andropov is about to step up a campaign against corruption at all levels of the Soviet bureaucracy. The departure of Mr. Shchekolov may herald a much wider purge of the Internal Affairs Ministry and the police, who have acquired—in contrast to the KGB—a reputation for laxity and bribe-taking. Friday's changes come only just before the 65th anniversary of the founding of the "Cheka", a forerunner of the KGB, which is to be celebrated this weekend. If past precedent is followed there will be a commemorative speech by a senior security official, probably Mr. Chebrikov.

Hassan receives 2 European Christian Democrats


AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday received with Jean Pierre Daillet and Pete Biokanan, members of the European union of Christian Democrats in particular. During the meeting Prince Hassan discussed with them the developments in the Middle East in general and the situation in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories in particular. They also discussed the role which can be played by Europe in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the area.

UNESCO agrees to preserve heritage of Old Jerusalem

PARIS (Petra) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) international heritage committee has taken up the question of preserving and maintaining the heritage of Old Jerusalem and its walls. The United States was the only country voted against this move. Jordanian ambassador in Paris and permanent Jordanian representative at the UNESCO, Mr. Taher Al Masri, submitted a special file detailing the conditions of Jerusalem after the occupation of Israeli military. It also gives a clear picture of Israeli attempts of Judaisation in defiance of all international resolutions and norms. He said the Jordanian government will follow up this case with the committee and UNESCO in order to prevent Israel from further Judaisation of the sacred city. He expressed hope that the committee on Jerusalem will enable the international community to help prevent Israel from Judaisation measures in order to maintain the status of the holy city. Further he added the committee may assist the Jordanian government in carrying out the maintenance of the damaged city.

Polish ambassador sentenced to death

WARSAW (R) — Poland's former ambassador to Japan, Zdzislaw Ruraz, has been sentenced to death in his absence for high treason by a Warsaw military court, the official news agency PAP said Friday. The court also confiscated all his property. PAP said. Shortly after the imposition of martial law last December, Mr. Ruraz followed the example of Poland's ambassador to the United States, and asked for political asylum in America.



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HOME NEWS

Newly-formed committee to study workers dismissals from companies

By Afifah A. Kaloti
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A joint committee, including representatives of the Ministry of Labour, the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC), the Mining Workers Union, and the General Fed-

eration of Jordanian Trade Unions (GJTU), has been formed to discuss procedures adopted by several Jordanian companies in dismissing employees, Ministry of Labour Under-Secretary Tayseer Abdul Jaber said Friday.

Dr. Abdul Jaber told the Jordan Times that the ministry's role in the matter was in accordance to its responsibilities to settle labour disputes and to protect workers' rights.

According to a memorandum submitted early this month to the Ministry of Labour by the heads of

various trade unions, conditions of workers in different companies are deteriorating due to workers lay-offs in processes of reorganisation or in cases of financial problems in the company.

The memorandum said that the JPMC has discharged 260 workers from Al Hasa and Ruseifa Pho-

osphate Mines.

The jobs of 513 workers at Al Bashir Hospital are threatened because a foreign company is expected to take over the administration of the services department at the hospital, the memorandum pointed out.

Medical team leaves for Yemen to aid quake victims

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian medical team Thursday left Amman for the Yemen Arab Republic to help victims of last week's earthquake.

The head of the team, Dr. Anwar Al Bilbist, told the correspondent of the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, that the team is made up of 11 doctors and six nurses of all specialisations and that the team is carrying with it six tonnes of various medicines and drugs to hand them over to Yemeni officials. He said the team will stay there as long as it is necessary and will contact the Jordanian health minister to send more doctors and nurses and medicines if needed.

Meanwhile, the executive committee of the Jordanian Red Crescent Society held Thursday an emergency meeting chaired by its President Dr. Ahmad Abu Qourah and decided to contribute JD 1,000 to the Yemeni Red Crescent Society to help it in its rescue and relief operations. The society also appealed to the public to make contributions particularly clothes to the victims of the earthquake.

Crown Prince congratulates Bahrain

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Thursday sent a cable to the Emir of Bahrain Sheikh Isa bin Salman Al Khalifa, in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government, congratulating him on the anniversary of the independence of his country. Prince Hassan wished further progress and prosperity for Bahrain and its people.

Awqaf Ministry regulates use of microphones in mosques

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs issued a statement on Thursday on the use of microphones in mosques for calling people to prayers and for Friday sermons.

The statement said the ministry issued instructions on the use of microphones throughout the mosques of the country following complaints made by citizens either because of failure to use the microphones or over-using them, thereby annoying sining people and children.

The statement said complaints were submitted to the ministry vis-a-vis mosques which are close to one another such as the Jabal Al Tajj and Jabal Al Hussein mosques as well as the mosques of Sweilch and Jerash.

Outgoing Greek envoy honoured

AMMAN (Petra) — Occupied Territories Affairs Minister and Acting Foreign Minister Hassan Ibrahim Thursday hosted a luncheon in honour of Greek Ambassador to Jordan Constantin Eliopoulos on the occasion of the end of his term in Jordan.

Mr. Ibrahim expressed his thanks and appreciation to the ambassador for the efforts he made to develop relations between the two countries. He also expressed hope that the relations between Jordan and Greece would continue to develop and praised the stands of the Greek government in supporting Arab issues.

Mr. Ibrahim bestowed on Ambassador Eliopoulos the Independence Medal, Grade One, in appreciation of his efforts in developing and consolidating relations between the two countries.

Hotels Corporation gets JD 6m loan

AMMAN (Petra) — A loan agreement amounting to JD 6 million was signed Thursday between the Jordan Hotels and Restaurants Corporation (JHRC) on the one hand and the Jordan Securities Corporation, the Arab Financial Corporation, and the Arab In-

vestment Bank on the other. JHRC Board of Directors Chairman Ma'an Abu Nowar signed the agreement for the JHRC and the general managers of the banks and companies concerned signed for their banks and companies.

Badran briefs NCC committee on Jordanian-Palestinian talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Mudar Badran attended a meeting of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Consultative Council (NCC) held Thursday. The prime minister briefed the committee members on the results of recent meetings of the joint Higher Jordanian-Palestinian committee.

Mr. Badran said the talks were centred on the principles and future Jordanian-Palestinian relations and a joint political strategy on international levels and that the Jordanian and Palestinian sides have agreed to continue political action together proceeding from the commitment to the Fez Arab summit conference resolutions within the framework of joint Arab action. They also agreed that the joint committee should continue its work. Mr. Badran added:

Mr. Badran said the talks were "fruitful and constructive and were conducted in an atmosphere of honesty, responsibility and frankness."

The NCC meeting was attended by council Speaker Suleiman Arar.

Radio Jordan chief addresses Arab Broadcasting Union

TUNIS (Petra) — A seminar on the present and future of broadcasting in the Arab World, organised by the Arab Broadcasting Union (ABU) continued its sessions here Thursday.

Participants in the seminar heard a study presented by Radio Jordan Director-General Nasouh Al Majali on the experience of Radio Jordan.

Mr. Majali explained the general climate under which the Jordanian broadcasting service operates, and general trends in its programmes "which are concentrated on increasing the information standard of the citizens and building their national sense of belonging in view of Jordan's role as a frontline state with Israel." He also explained Radio Jordan's mission of "enhancing

our spiritual heritage and assuming a pioneering role in explaining economic and social development plans."

Mr. Majali said Radio Jordan, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, is broadcasting educational programmes to students in the Israeli-occupied territories to "foil Israel's plans of falsifying the curricula."

The director of the Voice of Palestine radio also spoke in the session and reviewed experiences of the radio and its role during the Israeli invasion of Lebanon last June and the circumstances under which it was operating during the invasion. He said the radio's programmes are devoted to serving the Palestinian cause since it is the "central issue of the Arab Nation."

Tunis meeting to discuss Palestinian cultural heritage

AMMAN (Petra) — The president of the Royal Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research (Al Al-Belti Foundation), Nasseruddin Al Assad left Amman Thursday for Tunis as a personal representative of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to attend the meetings of the "International society for the preservation of Palestinian cultural heritage."

Dr. Assad said the agenda of the meetings includes "the dangers posed to the Palestinian cultural heritage in the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon as a result of the Israeli invasion."

The agenda also includes a comprehensive plan to revive the Palestinian heritage, to assess and to take necessary action against losses and damages sustained caused by the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and to take and to publish Palestinian writing.

A large number of personalities from various parts of the world are expected to attend the Tunis meeting.

Home and Garden club holds charity Christmas programme

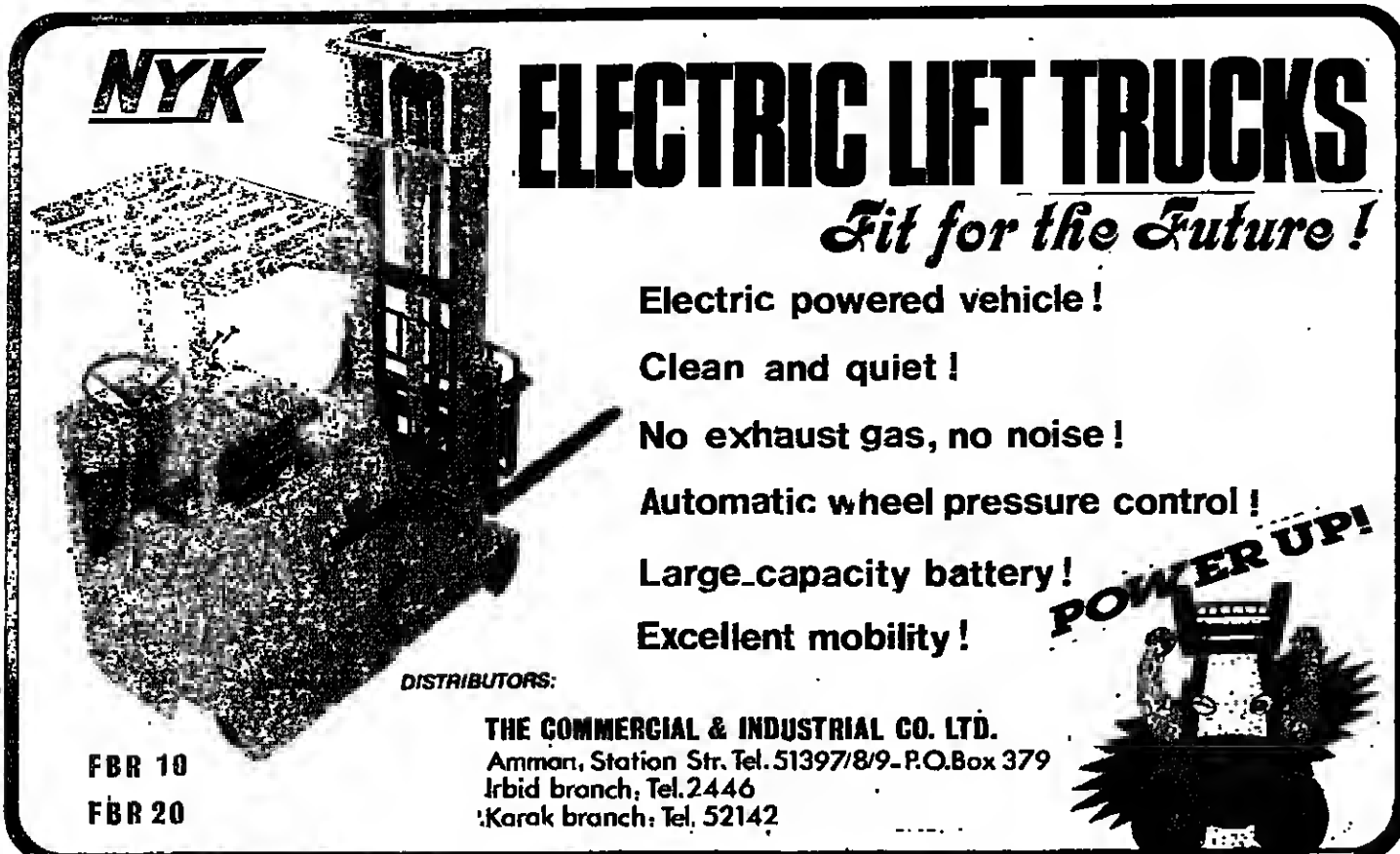
AMMAN (J.T.) — The Home and Garden, a charitable and social club, held an "International Christmas" programme on Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel to raise funds for charity.

Wives of several ambassadors to Jordan, and others from diplomatic mission, as well as guests of the club, contributed to and attended the programme. Some of the countries were represented through decorations they offered to display, pointing out ways and themes which they use in their own country for the occasion.

Others presented a small talk about how the event is celebrated, traditions followed and from where they originated. A few represented their national dresses.

With cakes, tea, and lottery going around, the high lights of the programme were: the Christmas carols sung by an American lady, Carol Amaya, and her accompanying guitarist Cary Parker, and a performance by a Scandinavian group, a few women and a couple of children, with the lights out walked through the tables, all dressed in white, and carrying lit candles, singing Santa Lucia, and other Swedish Christmas songs.

The proceeds of the event, which attracted 450 ladies, will go to the House of Peace in Amman, founded by Mother Theresa for the aged.



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09.00	08.50 (depi)					22.25 (arr)
11.30	11.30 (depi)					18.20 (depi)
14.45	14.45 (depi)					15.20 (depi)

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FEATURES

By James Forrester
Reuter

Beggar's Opera marks 250 years of live performances at Covent Garden

LONDON — Beggar's Opera might be an apt, if rather cruel, title for London's Royal Opera House in Covent Garden as it celebrates 250 years of live performances on its city-centre site this week.

December 7 was the 250th anniversary not of the Royal Opera but of the opening of the first theatre on the site now occupied by the Opera House.

It was opened by John Rich, whose association with John Gay, author of The Beggar's Opera, gave rise to the quip that the work

"made rich gay and Gay rich." Though not the first work to be staged in the theatre, The Beggar's Opera was one of the early successful productions.

The present-day Royal Opera would no doubt welcome some of that early commercial success.

Today it faces a financially troubled future that forces it to beg for assistance from both government and business sources and threatens its reputation as one of the world's great opera houses.

Indeed the Royal Opera's crisis is so grave that some sources close to the Covent Garden admin-

istration have even talked of possible bankruptcy.

Financial stringencies have already forced the Royal Opera House to cut new productions this season to two from a projected four. According to board chairman Sir Claus Moser this is inadequate to maintain Covent Garden's place among the world's top houses.

Sir Claus said in his annual report last month that box office takings had fallen 10 per cent below target, leaving the Opera House £300,000 (\$486,000) below budget. He said increased seat prices

and the economic recession caused the shortfall.

The economic recession has also caused a fall-off in private sponsorship of Covent Garden productions. This forced the cancellation of the two proposed new productions.

"So depressed a level of new productions is simply not compatible with the survival of Covent Garden as one of the world's great houses," Sir Claus said.

"Four other major houses in Europe, Vienna, Milan, Munich and Paris, spend on average two and a half times more per pro-

duction than we do," he said.

More than half of last year's total income came from government grants, with donations bringing in just over one million sterling (\$1,600,000).

Ironically, the Royal Opera's own success at fund raising and the increasing strength of regional opera companies in Britain may share part of the blame for the current financial crisis.

Earlier this year, the Prince of Wales opened a new extension to the Opera House, which provided much improved and very nec-

essary rehearsal facilities and dressing rooms for the artists appearing there.

The extension was the result of a development appeal launched some years ago. By July, when Prince Charles opened the extension, the amount raised and promised had reached £9,530,000 (almost \$16 million) — just short of the final target.

There is no doubt that this fund-raising success in a time of recession has affected the Royal Opera's ability to raise business sponsorship for new productions.

London's other permanent opera company, the English National Opera at the Coliseum theatre, has not been affected by financial cutbacks to the same extent.

Its growing success in achieving business sponsorship is undoubtedly partly at the expense of its more famous rival half a mile away.

And while the Royal Opera has had to cut back on new productions, the English National, whose productions are always in English, has at least five in the current season.

Business interests have also

come to the fore in supporting regional opera companies in Britain.

One, the recently-established Opera North, has a higher proportion of new productions than the others though only the Glasgow-based Scottish opera has had to cut back to anything like the same extent as the Royal Opera.

Scottish Opera has three new productions in the current season. The Cardiff-based Welsh Opera, which has pursued a highly individual and artistically successful line since its foundation has five and is perhaps the most successful of all the regional companies in obtaining financial support from business sources.

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Where it matters most

SOME American officials, congressmen and commentators seem to have already lost sight of the long-range goals of King Hussein's planned talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan in Washington on Tuesday. Several have been suggesting that the main discussion between the two leaders could only focus on selling arms to Jordan in exchange for a Jordanian participation in the "autonomy" talks over the West Bank and Gaza. Others have concluded for themselves that the U.S. would be able to solve the entire Middle East problem if the King, with a measure of American pressure, were made to accept Israeli terms on behalf of the Palestinians.

Like most people in the U.S. and elsewhere, we, in Jordan, attach great significance to Tuesday's talks as an important step towards progress in solving the Arab-Israeli conflict, especially after the agreement here in Amman between Jordan and the PLO to go it together in seeking a just and honourable peace settlement for the area. Also like many Americans, we feel it may be too early yet to expect a dramatic breakthrough emerging from the Washington talks.

Congressmen and New York com-

mentators can perhaps afford to lose sight of the real issues without risking their seats or spots on Capitol Hill or in Wall Street, or pretend not to know in the first place. The Reagan administration, however, cannot ignore the facts because neither pressure nor withholding arms from Jordan ever presented the U.S. with the right answer to the Middle East. To this end, we welcome Presidential Counselor Edwin Meese's statement on Thursday that the U.S. will support the sale of arms to Jordan without any condition that King Hussein join talks with Israel, Egypt and the U.S. on Palestinian self-rule, the Camp David-Begio style.

Jordan and the PLO and all Arabs have proved their seriousness in wanting to give peace a good chance, be it through the Reagan proposals or the Arab plan for peace or both. The Arab mission's talks in Washington in November, and now King Hussein's current visit to the U.S., are but solid evidence of our desire to achieve lasting peace, and the Americans know it. It is now high time that America should focus all attention, and show the world, on what itself can do.

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Why U.S. lays responsibility on Jordan's shoulders?

It is natural that the American press and mass media demonstrate great interest in the expected talks between His Majesty King Hussein and President Reagan.

The stress on the Jordanian role in making President Reagan's initiative a success does not lack exaggeration; moreover, it sort of predetermines whose responsibility it would be if the Israeli side remains passive and keeps creating obstacles in the path of implementing U.S. peace proposals.

Jordan has repeatedly expressed understanding of the positive aspects in the initiative but it is quite obvious that Israel expressed rejection of all such positive aspects ever since the plan's proclamation. Nevertheless, U.S. aid to Israel clearly demonstrated that the U.S. government was ready to exert no pressure on Israel to guarantee a positive Israeli attitude towards the American peace proposals.

Al Dastour: Begin's transparent

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin reiterated ideas before the thirtieth Zionist conference that introduce no new information to the Arab citizen, but it is quite obvious that they are directed somewhere else, namely Washington, and the Reagan initiative.

Begin talked about a Palestine that has not been populated for thousands of years, and remained vacant awaiting the arrival of the Zionist invaders, a pretext that should only make twentieth-century human beings question its sanity.

The reiteration of such views is obviously an expression of long-propagated demagoguery that can no longer mislead world public opinion that has now become fully aware of the terrorist nature of Zionist trends, and the anti-peace essence of its practices, on the one hand, and the just cause of the Palestinian people, and their legitimate historical rights in their homeland occupied by the Israelis on the other.

pretences aim at U.S.

Begin's attitude is simply directed against the U.S. administration's peace proposals. While the Reagan initiative called for a freeze on Israeli settlement policies, Begin is rejecting any talk of the demographic question regarding the occupied Arab territories.

The extreme trends that have developed as a result of a paranoid military position, mainly nourished by unrestricted U.S. military and economic support, can only be checked by a serious American stand, and readiness to exert enough pressure on Israel to put things in their natural course, leading to a negotiated settlement to the Middle East conflict.

The only possible way for opening new avenues for peace in the region is through pressing Israel into giving up extremist attitudes, and saving the world the dangers of an explosive situation in area, as significant to world peace and interests as the Middle East.

Andropov appears to move cautiously in foreign policy First big changes are likely to come in the domestic sphere

By Richard Bahnforth
 Reuter

MOSCOW — After a month in power, Soviet Communist Party chief Yuri Andropov appears to be moving cautiously in foreign policy, but has served notice that a tough line is to be pursued over the domestic economy. Mr. Andropov, 65, has confounded those Kremlin-watchers who predicted sudden changes in foreign policy and a shake-up in the power structure.

Leadership changes since his election on Nov. 12 have been intriguing but modest. No new initiatives have been announced in foreign policy. A placid calm has returned to the surface, at least, of Kremlin politics. Privately, Soviet officials have told diplomats that there will be no swerves in foreign policy and, rhetoric apart, Moscow still wants productive arms talks with Washington.

The new leadership instead has suggested that the first big changes are likely to come in the domestic sphere. It is there that Mr. Andropov has called for rapid improvements in economic performance, and where he has warned that the cost of such improvements may be a country-wide purge of local managers who are simply not up to their jobs.

Mr. Andropov set a turnaround in the stagnating economy as a priority target in his first big speech to the party leadership last month after his predecessor Leonid Brezhnev's funeral. He sharply criticised "inertia and adherence to old ways," spoke of managers who "just do not know how to set about doing their job" and expressed particular concern over low labour productivity. He clearly had his sights on economic managers who enjoyed job security despite incompetence

under the long, benign rule of Mr. Brezhnev. The fact that these days are over and job security must be merited has now been spelled out by republican party chiefs in a series of provincial party leadership meetings.

Scathing comments by Georgian party chief Eduard Shevardnadze at a party central committee session in his republic this month were typical of those made at meetings throughout the country. Mr. Shevardnadze named a score of officials in government, state and party institutions in Georgia who he said had to bear full responsibility for grave shortcomings in their departments.

So far, no purges of officials have been unleashed and only a few heads have rolled.

But one Western diplomat who met a member of the ruling senior Politburo recently said the new leadership's watchword was "accountability." Economic managers would be held accountable for performance, and industrial and agricultural goals would be strictly adhered to, he said.

Another diplomat commented: "The logical conclusion is that if the economy does not show a turnaround then there is going to be a massive discarding of 'dead wood' from the works." A key figure in all this appears to be Geidar Aliyev, 59, a suave, tough-talking protégé of Mr. Andropov who was promoted to full Politburo member and first deputy prime minister. Mr. Aliyev, a former security police chief, achieved economic recovery in Soviet Azerbaijan as party boss after an extensive crackdown on corruption. He is publicly a great advocate of hard work, discipline and "socialist legality" and appears to have been brought into the leadership to crack the whip to fulfil plan targets.

At his farewell address to the Azerbaijan party leadership, Mr. Aliyev reviewed results of his 13-year rule in the republic and added: "this inspires me to active work in my new field." A fresh pointer to the new line came yesterday with publication of an unusual account of a meeting by the ruling party Politburo.

The Communist Party daily Pravda said the Politburo had called for tougher action in the 14 republics against crime and corruption in reply to written complaints from the public.

As well underwriting the anti-corruption theme, the new leadership seemed to be directly attempting to assure Soviet citizens that their grievances would not go unheeded. Further hints on the way Mr. Andropov intends to move the country may come later this month on the 60th anniversary of the USSR's formation when he is expected to make a major address. Since the transition of power, the main tangible difference between the Brezhnev era and the early days of Mr. Andropov's rule has been one of style.

During Mr. Brezhnev's lifetime, the state-controlled mass media provided reports of even the most trivial ceremonial event in which he participated to a point that fell only just short of a personality cult. Mr. Brezhnev's love of protocol and ceremonial meant his picture was seldom absent from Soviet newspapers or TV screens. By contrast, Mr. Andropov is positively self-effacing and appears to have a positive dislike for ceremonial occasions. He has shunned gratuitous Kremlin ritual, but, at the same time, has shown he is prepared to play an active role in the formulation of policy.

When an Arab league del-

egation visited Moscow, he had direct talks with King Hussein of Jordan and six Arab foreign ministers — something which would have been out of the question for Mr. Brezhnev in his latter, ailing years. The exact amount of authority Mr. Andropov wields among his peers in the leadership is largely a matter of guesswork.

One possible clue suggesting he does not have the total confidence of all his Politburo colleagues was his failure to succeed Mr. Brezhnev to his secondary post of head of state. Many diplomats saw this as a sign of resistance among the politburo to Mr. Andropov assuming too much power too quickly.

By becoming a member of the Supreme Soviet Presidium he has

moved towards assuming the post which at the moment is vacant. Two main figures who have emerged as apparently close allies of Mr. Andropov are Defence Minister Dmitry Ustinov, 74, and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko, 73, while a question hangs over his relations with Politburo colleague Konstantin Chernenko, 71.

Mr. Chernenko, a former close Brezhnev aide and one of the powerful Central Committee secretaries, lost the race for the top Kremlin job. There have been signs that the two men hold quite different views on style of leadership. It is unknown if these tensions have been resolved though Mr. Chernenko has recently moved back into the sidelines of power.

LETTERS

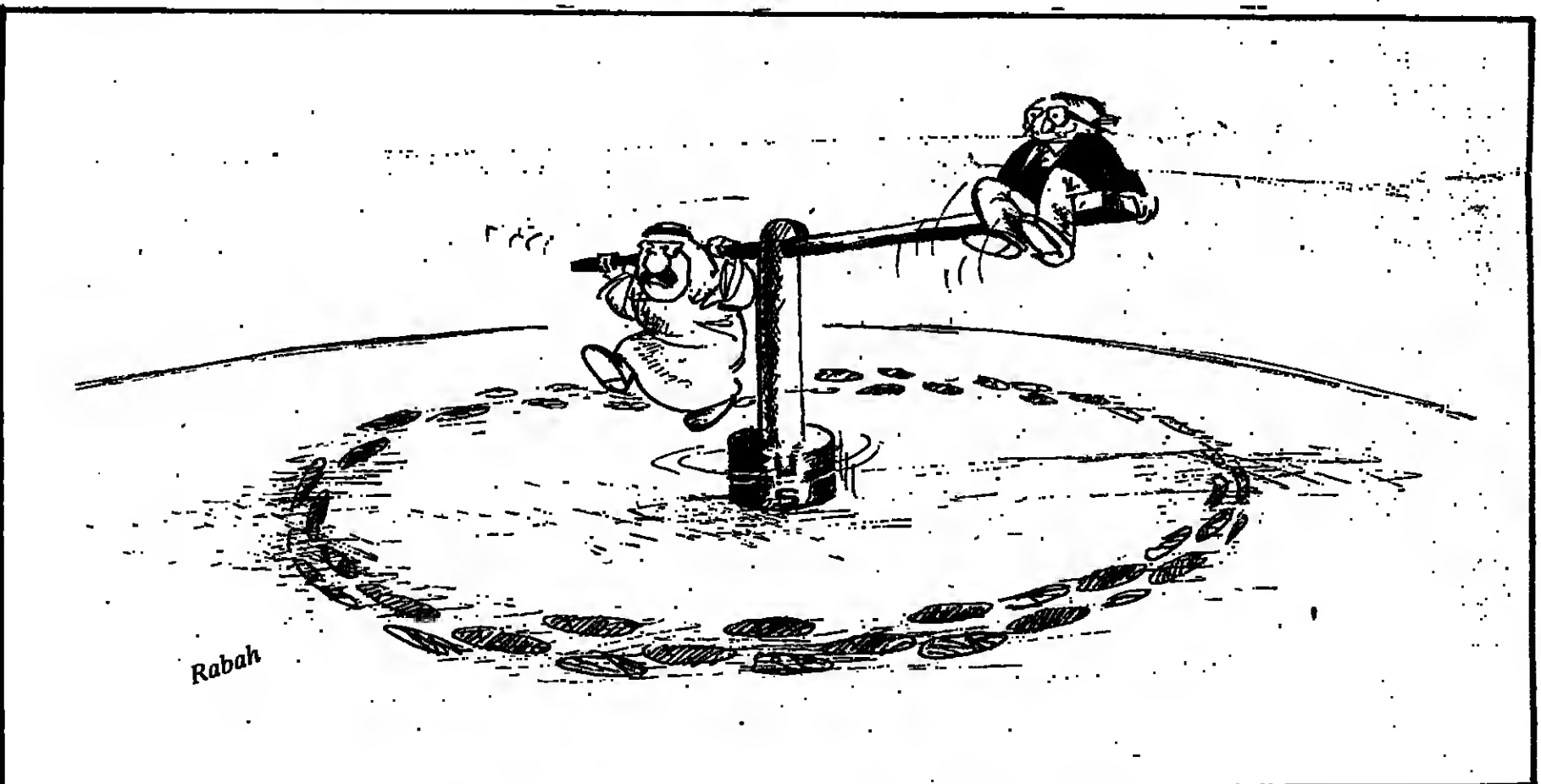
Equity before the law

To the Editor,

I would like to complain about a very unpleasant incident which occurred when I was passing through Jerash at 15:30 on Friday December 10. I was stopped by a policeman because of overcrowdedness in my car. We, two comrades and I, were sitting in my Toyota Pick Up. I did not know that three persons including the driver in this car could be wrong. Anyway, I paid JD 3 for violation of traffic rules. The most intriguing thing

however, was that the police caught only foreigners and ignored all Arabic crowded vehicles. On my way home, I tried to forget this, but decided to appeal to the authorities for equity before law to everyone and unfairness to none.

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In spite of unprecedented civilian unrest in Argentina Military government refuses to see any grounds for increasing unpopularity

By Jane Klima
 Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — A week of unprecedented civilian unrest in Argentina has ended with the military government refusing to recognise any grounds for its own increasing unpopularity. The last seven days have seen a general strike which paralysed the country, a 24-hour "march of resistance" by human rights groups, a mass political rally in central Buenos Aires and dramatic protests by veterans of the Falklands (Malvinas) war at a ceremony in their honour.

Civilian leaders have warned the military that their credibility is exhausted and that elections promised for late 1983 should be brought forward. But the seven-year-old government, accused by the political parties of bankrupting the country, violating human rights, condoning widespread corruption and irresponsibly waging a disastrous war with Britain, has blamed the protests on small groups of agitators.

Following the work stoppage, on Dec 6 the only official comment from Interior Minister Ramon Reston who said union demands for economic policy changes,

a speedy return to democracy and the lifting of trade union activity restrictions did not come under his portfolio.

The day after the union protest, 30,000 Radical Party supporters marched through streets of the capital clamouring for an end to military dictatorship and demanding the firing squad for the military who sold out the nation.

At a rally the same day, Saul Alfonsín, a centre-left leader seeking the presidency, called for the creation of a national movement to fight "not only for the military to get out but for them never to return." Roars of approval greeted his criticisms of "the Malvinas adventure," reflecting the continuing public frustration with the armed forces six months after they surrendered the islands they had occupied for only 74 days.

War conscripts' accusations of cruelty, negligence, cowardice and lack of organisation by some of their officers exploded last weekend in a dramatic protest at a medal-awarding ceremony near Buenos Aires. Eyewitnesses said about 300 veterans lay down and banged their fists on the ground, encouraged by watching relatives and neighbours and even by some soldiers currently doing military

service. The army high command blamed the incidents, which included the chanting of anti-military slogans, on small politically-inspired groups.

March of resistance

Federal police similarly played down the "march of resistance" organised by relatives and friends of between 6,000 and 30,000 people who disappeared during the military's anti-guerrilla crackdown in the late 1970s. A television police communiqué after the vigil ended on Friday said "some mothers and grandmothers, of the terrorists of the past" took part in the demonstration, which had been mainly attended by marginal subversive groups.

The issue of the "disappeared" is the thorniest of a number which the military are seeking to negotiate with the political parties before ceding power. Political sources said the government was preparing a package of measures which would include an admission that some innocent people were mistreated or killed in the anti-guerrilla campaign.

But at the same time, an amnesty would be declared for all members of the armed forces who

committed what the sources termed "excesses during the campaign." The majority parties have kept a low profile on the subject of the missing people despite mounting pressure from human rights groups.

But following the discovery of hundreds of unmarked graves throughout the country, the press has begun to sharpen its previously oblique references to the so-called "dirty war" and its "excesses."

Last week, political columnist Luis Gregorich of the popular satirical magazine "Humor" dared the parties to say publicly "what the whole country knows, the open secret that can no longer be silenced: The immense majority of the disappeared were executed on the orders of the military authorities and their bodies were concealed or destroyed by various means. Many innocent people were among the dead. The policy of extermination was wrong and unnecessary."

Up to 250,000 people are expected to take part Thursday in a mass march to press for an unconditional return to democracy, called by the five parties which won most votes in the last elections in 1973.

The war and the Beirut massacre have heightened political awareness and militancy of Arab youth. Shifts in an uneasy relationship

By Galina Vromen
 Reuter

NEVE SHALOM, Israel — Israel's invasion of Lebanon has caused shifts in the uneasy relationship between the country's 3.3 million Jews and 600,000 Arabs.

Community workers say the war and the Beirut massacre of Palestinians have heightened the political awareness and militancy of Arab youths. By contrast the war has raised new fears for Jews that their failure to live peacefully in an Arab Middle East. There are signs that more Jews are now willing to return some Israeli-occupied land to reach a settlement with the Palestinians.

While most Jews in Israel strongly oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state, there has been a shift in favour of giving up part of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured by Israel in 1967, according to recent opinion polls.

One survey in the Jerusalem Post showed that 51.2 per cent now favoured giving up some Israeli-held land, compared to 38.5 per cent before the Lebanon war. Another poll in the Hebrew newspaper Haaretz also reported a softening in previous opposition to handing back any territory.

Among those best placed to notice the changes are the handful of activists in both communities who run workshops for school-children in Arab-Jewish relations. They report that the difficulty they once had in attracting Jews to the small number of programmes in bilingual cultural relations has disappeared while the high interest among Arabs before the war has waned.

A new Jerusalem Institute set up this year with private and government funds and scheduled to initiate Arab-Jewish programmes in six schools was besieged by requests from an additional 40 Jewish schools. The changes are also evident at workshops conducted at Neve Shalom (oasis of peace), a unique rural community where 10 Arab and Jewish families live together.

About 150 Arab and Jewish teenagers a month take part in the workshops, talking of their prejudices and asking each other tough political questions.

"The Arab kids express more open support for terrorism than before," says Judy Wisch, a Jewish workshop leader. "They used to go so far as to say they would hide a guerrilla. Now there is an attitude of Jews kill Arabs, so why don't Arabs kill Jews."

Amer Awbad, a 17-year-old

Arab high school student, says a recent Neve Shalom workshop differed sharply from similar encounters in the past with Jewish teenagers. "The Jewish kids would always tell me: Forget about there ever being a Palestinian state, Israel would bomb it out of existence," Amer recalls. This time not single Jewish child in his group opposed the idea of a Palestinian homeland.

His own interest in the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has been aroused by the war. "I never read much about the PLO before. I wasn't that interested."

But the war made me realise the PLO has set things up almost as if they were a state. And the guerrillas fought well — like in a war of independence.

The changes in both communities have done little to make encounters easier, and a mixture of anger, fear and guilt often surfaces. "There are layers of fear in relations between Arabs and Jews. At times like these, the deep layers of fear are uncovered," explains Sarah Kreimer.

An American Jew, Miss Kreimer has spent the past two years living in the Galilee Arab village of Tamra as part of "interns for peace," a privately funded group that promotes relations between

the two communities. She said a programme between youth in Tamra and a nearby Jewish township was almost sabotaged by the fears of a Jewish schoolmistress who the outlawed Palestinian flag was raised in Tamra during a day of mourning over the Beirut massacre.

Miss Kreimer and two other Jewish volunteers in the village were afraid to go out on the streets during the day of mourning declared after the massacre. Many Israeli Arabs lost relatives in the September killings and an Israeli judicial investigation has been hearing testimony to determine Israel's role in the massacre.

The volunteers stayed at home in the village in solidarity with grieving Israeli Arabs, but only after being assured by the local village council that they would not be harmed.

"The personal relations we have with some of the villagers have held up, but people who did not know us were suddenly terribly suspicious, wondering whether we were spies," she said. The volunteers have since played most suspicious, but weeks later, she asked this reporter to put away a note pad while speaking in an olive field.

مركزنا للأبحاث

Focus on welfare

China: Care of old may reduce births

By Penny Kane

Jiangwen Commune, in the suburbs of Shanghai, is far from typical of China's rural organisation. For one thing, Shanghai is (comparatively) rich: incomes there are 30 per cent above the Chinese average. For another, only half its 10,000 labour force is involved in agriculture: in the production of the vegetables and pigs, chickens and ducks that Jiangwen sells to the city. The remainder works in its 14 factories, producing anything from woollens to aluminium tubes, or in private production. There is free schooling, universal in junior middle-school level, and just under half the children are able to go on to senior middle school. A few have even gone to university. A collective medical insurance scheme means virtually free medical care.

Pension scheme

Most remarkable of all, the commune operates a pension scheme for the old. First undertaken piecemeal by a few brigades, the scheme was discussed by commune members in 1978; they decided they now had enough money to offer pensions to all (spurred on by the fact that the factory workers already received a pension equal to 60 per cent salary, so that the peasants were seen as losing out). There are 1,400 farmers today who have retired at 65 with allowances of from 16-20 yuan (\$8-\$10) a month, free medical treatment and occasional

treats, such as a day out at the neighbouring beauty spot of Hangzhou.

The pensions are still very low: less than a third of what the most junior factory worker would get. Nevertheless, they are a first step towards a national goal which would not only revolutionise living standards for the old, but have a considerable effect on China's family planning programme.

"People want a son to guarantee their old age, and to prevent suffering," said Mr. Xu, the deputy director of the commune. He believes that the introduction of pensions has had a significant effect on the desire for children—especially boys—for one's old age.

Throughout the country, those involved in family planning agree. Their views are backed, to a certain extent, by a survey undertaken a couple of years ago on why people in China want children: half those questioned said it was for their old age, rather than for manpower, or for other reasons. But, even a year ago, the idea of pensions for all was rejected out of hand by policy-makers at all levels. The money, they said, just was not there. Today, pensions have assumed a new importance and the questions, among top policy-makers at least, are about how to achieve old-age security. Should the state take the unprecedented step of intervening directly, setting up an insurance fund to which all individuals as well as the state would contribute? The People's Bank is already

undertaking studies, and even small-scale experiments, to judge the feasibility of this option. Alternatively, should the state merely encourage communes to give local pension schemes priority, thus strengthening the economic basis of the collective, on which the whole Chinese system is based? In the latter case, some state intervention would probably be necessary anyhow, to supplement welfare funds in the poorest areas, to provide old people's homes for those without children, for example. A recent conference in Anhui, sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Family Planning Commission, focussed entirely on local experiences of providing care—particularly homes—for the aged.

Birth rate

The increasing importance of the pensions issue reflects both China's concern with keeping its growth rate low enough to ensure that only another 200 million people are added to its population by the end of the century, and the improvement in personal incomes over the past two or three years. Recent economic policies designed to encourage individual initiative and reward individual effort and those aimed at increasing the provision of consumer goods, have led to noticeable increases in production.

Among the measures which have achieved this has been the introduction of the "responsibility system" in agriculture. There is

considerable variation in how the system is applied locally, but essentially it marks a change from a division of labour within a brigade or team whose members shared workpoints (and therefore income) for each phase of the work, to one in which the commune makes contracts with groups of its members for the year. Sometimes these contracts are made with a work team; in other areas they are made with individual families. The contract specifies the quota to be produced; any production above that quota results in a profit which is split between the producers and the commune's welfare fund.

Two drawbacks

There are two possible drawbacks here for the family planning policy. The first is that, especially when the responsibility contract is with a single family, the more members that family has, the easier it is to fulfil its quota and to earn extra income. Some communes have tried to get round this problem by linking, for example, the agricultural production contract with the family's reproductive plans and giving a bonus for the joint fulfilment of the two.

Others emphasise to the peasants that low productivity can only be solved, in the long run, by increased mechanisation—that the need is not for more hands, but for more modernisation, which can only come from savings which the growth rate imperils. But whatever the solution, there is no doubt that this aspect of the new

economic system has put new pressures on the family planning programme.

Secondly, the responsibility system has put pressures on the commune's welfare funds. Its members are asked to decide on how much of their earnings will be regarded as resulting from extra work, and how much of these personal earnings will be sacrificed for the common good. In the long run, this could mean that welfare funds are depleted to the point where basic health care—the very foundation of successful family planning—is threatened, along with funds for family planning provision, for incentives for the one-child family, and for care of the old.

Any such decrease in the contributions of peasants is currently being met by the increased commune investment in small factories, whose profits are usually fed into the welfare fund. These small factories have absorbed a considerable amount of surplus labour, including female and seasonal workers. Typical is Wuqi Brigade, Xindu commune in Sichuan, with a carpenters' team, a housebuilding team, a bicycle repair shop, watch repairers, a restaurant, a tannery and a shoe factory. Increased investment here is another result of more flexible economic policies designed to boost production and income.

More problematical is the contribution of other "sideline" activities. This blanket term covers anything from the growth and sale of vegetables in peasants' private plots to handicrafts and other



Looking after grandparents in China has traditionally been a family matter

home-based occupations. To ensure increased food supplies, the state has been encouraging the expansion of private plots. The growth of incomes from these private sectors, though, poses a further difficulty in the pursuit of the one-child family policy, since it is obvious again that more peo-

ple in the family will result in more hands for private income-generating activities.

Some communes have responded by refusing to allocate any land for the second or third child; others are imposing fines of various types to reduce the profitability of the extra child. But in

Yunnan the policy-makers have found that the richer the farmers are, the less they are concerned about penalties for the extra child, whilst in Anhui a survey suggested that the poorest families were least responsive to incentives for a single child.

Bangladesh: Palace poverty

By Lloyd Timberlake

DACCA — Most European children would regard 10-year-old Aziz Ahmed as a very lucky boy. He spends his days in a palace, and he earns his own money.

But Aziz's palace, the massive red Ahsan Manjil which dom-

inates the riverfront of Dhacca, has gone to seed since it was the grandest structure in the region. Ninety years ago British aristocracy stayed there; and from there the Nawab Sir Salimullah, Knight Commander of the British Empire, ruled the surrounding area from a golden throne. But the

1958 the government of Pakistan abolished the Nawab's powers and divided the palace among 1,500 relatives, who rent rooms out as workshops.

So Aziz's share of the once-glorious palace, whose innards now resemble a 19th century workhouse, is a small room cri-

scrossed from ceiling to floor with humming belts powering crude lathes on which metal pots are turned. He polishes, stacks, fetches and occasionally gets to run one of the machines.

He is not related to the workshop boss, so he is not allowed, like the boss's relatives, to sleep in the palace at night. And his salary gives him a cruel choice between buying something to eat or place to sleep. Aziz, who has no family of his own, regularly chooses food. Dhacca's "street-sleeping army" of bodies, sprawled loosely across the pavements under the garish cinema posters, make parts of the city look as if it had just suffered a poison gas attack. Families bed down on streets together, and children like Aziz huddle together for warmth under jute sackings.

During the moonsoons the street-sleepers are even more prone than usually to all of the water-related diseases: from malaria to the diarrhoeas, dysenteries and cholera caused by bad drinking water when the floods mix the city water system with sewage. Tuberculosis, pneumonia and influenza also threaten the urban poor who live outside. A sick orphan is unlikely to get much help from the government, as Bangladesh spends only about 10 cents per person per year on health care.

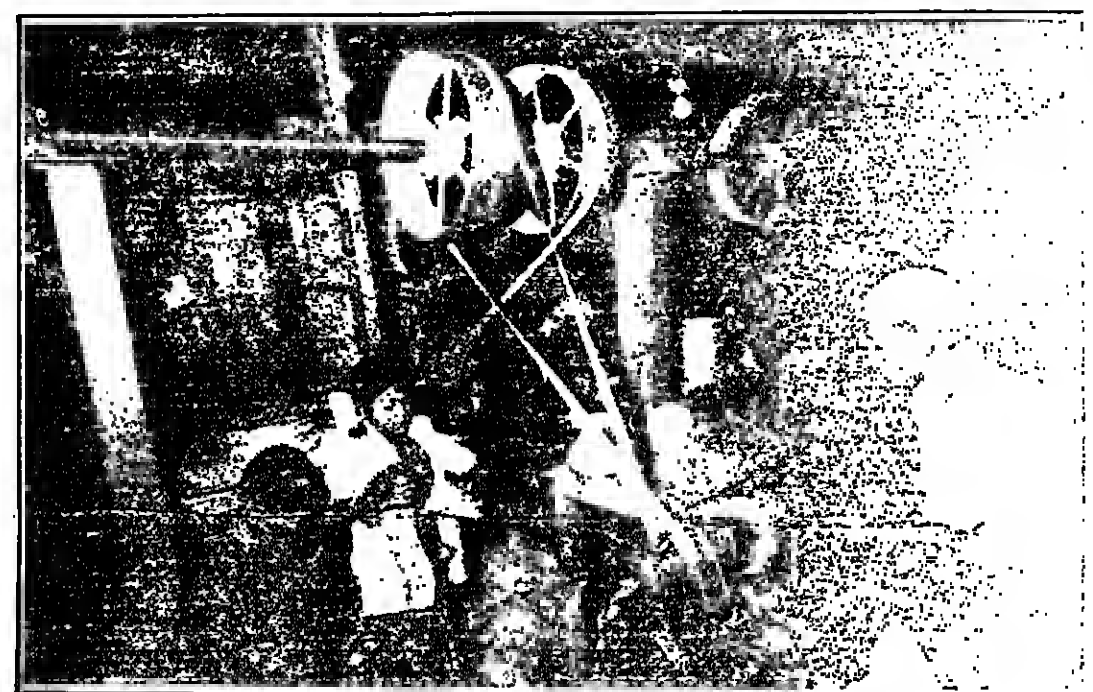
Unemployment

But in a strange way the European child's first reaction to Aziz's palace and job is correct: he is one of the lucky ones. Bangladesh is a rural nation, with 90% of its people living in the countryside. But over half of the peasants lack their own land and work the land of others. Unemployment — a term almost impossible to define in a rural nation — is estimated at around 50%, with tremendous seasonal variation. The average annual income in Bangladesh is only about \$100.

So not only is Aziz fortunate to have a job — unlike thousands of his friends — but his wage is not paltry by national standards. Competition for jobs in Dhacca is fierce; but, being a child, Aziz can be paid less than a man, and the workshop boss can afford to hire him.

And it is not as if Aziz were missing out on the schooling that all of his friends are getting. Only about 20% of the national population can read and write. But despite his hard work, Aziz is not learning any valuable skills. Few of the working children of Bangladesh can be described as "apprentices"; most do jobs which in the West are done by simple machines.

All over Dhacca, in virtually every tiny workshop and factory into which a visitor cares to peer, there are children doing the work of adults. In one of the palace



Aziz (second from left) polishes a newly-turned cup

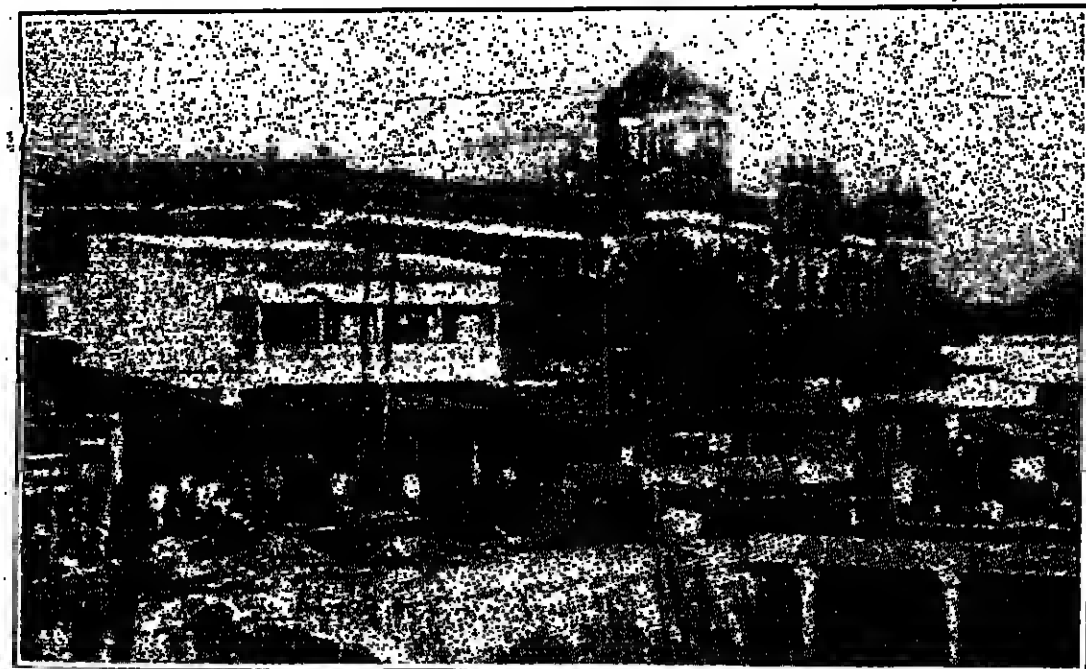
workshops small boys screw together and polish toy metal cars which will be pedalled by the children of the rich. Others spin cloth for elaborate sarees.

Bangladesh is poor in almost everything except children. Today 43% of its population — about 38 million souls — are under the age of 15. United Nations figures indicate that in 1975 out of every 1,000 people in Bangladesh, 42 children under the age of 14 held jobs.

But these statistics are obviously far too low, given the fact that everywhere a visitor turns small children are rowing ferries, planting rice, tending water buffaloes, pedalling rickshaws, serving in tea shops and working in workshops. The main reason always offered for the poor performance of family planning schemes in this chronically overpopulated nation is that parents want children to help with the daily work. Bangladesh's own sta-

istics refer to the "economically active population, employed, 10 years of age and over." Worldwide, some 75 million children work, increasing the chances of survival of their entire families.

With Bangladesh's population now doubling every 27 years, the growing number of children like Aziz will have to work to live. But few of them will be lucky enough to work in a palace.



The Ahsan Manjil Palace in Dhacca, now an industrial ghetto

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

06:30 Korna
06:50 Cartoons
07:15 Local Children's Programme
07:30 Move in on
07:45 Agricultural Programme
08:00 News in Arabic
08:15 Arabic Play
10:30 News in Arabic
11:00 News in Arabic
11:15 Arabic Play Cont.

FOREIGN CHANNEL

06:00 French Programme
07:00 News in French
07:30 News in Hebrew
08:30 Comedy: Man About the House
09:00 Documentary/Magazine
09:30 Saturday Variety Show
10:00 News in English
10:15 Feature Film:
Class of '63

RADIO JORDAN

853 KHz, AM & 99 KHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW

07:10 Morning Show
07:30 News Bulletin
08:00 News Summary
08:30 News Summary
09:00 Pop Session
09:30 News Bulletin
10:00 Picnic Time
10:30 Concert Hour
10:45 News Summary
11:00 Instrumentals
11:30 Jordan Weekly
12:00 Special Feature
12:30 News Summary
13:00 Great Books of Islam
13:30 News Summary
14:00 Top Twenty
14:30 Date with a Star
15:00 News Summary
15:30 Classical Concert
16:00 News Summary
16:30 First Spin
17:00 News Summary
17:30 Country Music
18:00 News Headlines, Sign Off

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Jazz Workshop
06:45 Financial News 6:45 Reflections
07:00 World News 07:00 British Press Review 07:15 About Britain 07:30 New Ideas 07:40 Book Choice 07:45 The World Today 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Album Time 08:30 World News 08:30 News about Britain 09:15 From the Weeklies 09:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 Star Profile 10:30 The Goon Show 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Science in Action 12:15 What's New 12:30 Just a Minute 13:00 World News 13:00 News about Britain 13:15 About Britain 13:30 Meridian 14:00 Radio Newsweek 14:15 Anything Goes 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 Commentary 15:15 Network U.K. 15:30 The Midweek Cuckoo 16:00 They Write the Songs 16:30 Fiesta 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Saturday Special 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Saturday Special 19:00 News Summary 19:02 Saturday Special 19:09 Book Choice 19:15 The Magic of... 19:45 Sports Round-Up 20:00 World News 20:00 News about Britain 20:15 Radio Newsweek 20:30 Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde 21:30 Album Time 22:00 World News 22:00 Commentary 22:15 Good Books 22:30 Nation to Nation 22:15 Saturday 23:30 People and Politics 24:00 World News 24:00 From Our Own Correspondent 00:30 New Ideas 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up 01:00 World News 01:00 Commentary 01:15 Letterbox 01:30 Meridian

VOICE OF AMERICA

1260, 7205, 11925, 15205

06:00 The Breakfast Show: 17:00 News and This Week 17:30 Press Conference USA 18:00 Special English: News, Words, and Their Stories, Feature: Short Stories 18:30 New York, New York 19:00 Weekend 20:00 Special English: News and This Week 21:30 Press Conference USA 22:00 Special English: news/words and their stories 22:15 Music USA (Jazz) 23:00 Weekend

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

* "Architectural Week," at the Professional Associations Complex.

* Paintings by Reem Jack Khayat at the Arts Art Gallery.

FILMS

* La Cité de l'Indochine: Peur, a thriller (sub-titles in Arabic) at the French Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

* Danger On Overtour, children's film, at the British Council at 5:00 p.m.

* Snow White and the Red Rose, a film for German-speaking children, at the Goethe Institute at 4:30 p.m.

Theatre

* Dramatised readings of German children's stories (in Arabic) at the Haya Arts Centre at 4:00 p.m. Tickets 250 fils each from the Centre and the Goethe Institute.

CULTURAL CENTRES

American Centre tel. 41520
British Council 36147-8
French Cultural Centre 37009
Goethe Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44203
Spanish Cultural Centre 24049
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195
Hussein Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 84355

MUSEUMS

Falshara Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760.

Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabbal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. 44203.

Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculpture by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and

collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Museum, Jabbal Leiweddi. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.

Military Museum: Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports Club. Amman. Opening hours 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240.

Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.

SERVICE CLUBS

Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 1:30 p.m.

Rotary Club. Meetings every Tuesday at the International Hotel, 2:00 p.m.

Royal Automobile Club, Jabbal Amman. Eighth Circle. Tel. 81261.

CHURCHES

St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Amman, tel. 24590.

Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Leiweddi-ch. 37440.

De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Jabbal Hussein, 661737.

Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 25541.

Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabbal Amman, 43453.

Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 75261.

St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751.

Amman International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiad, 663249.

PRAYER TIMES

05:43 Fajr
06:31 (Sunrise) Shuruq
11:32 Dhuhur
14:17 'Asr
16:33 Maghreb
18:01 'Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER

AMMAN AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Alfa Information department at Amman Airport, tel. 92705-6, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

06:45 Cairo (EA)
06:45 Cairo (RJ)
06:55 Agaba (RJ)
09:15 Abu Dhabi (RJ)
09:30 Jeddah (RJ)
09:35 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
09:40 Ohahrn (RJ)
09:45 Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 Beirut (RJ)

10:50 Abu Dhabi, Doha (GA)

11:05 Abu Dhabi (EA)

14:25 Kuwait (KAC)

16:00 Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)

16:30 Cairo (RJ)

16:55 Beirut (MEA)

17:15 Frankfurt, Geneva (RJ)

17:30 Copenhagen, Athens (RJ)

18:05 Rome (Alitalia)

18:20 Athens (GA)

18:30 Cairo (RJ)

19:30 Baghdad (IR)

20:30 Frankfurt, Larnaca (LH)

20:40 Beirut (MEA)

22:30 Baghdad (RJ)

00:30 Cairo (RJ)

00:45 Baghdad (RJ)

01:45 Cairo (EA)

DEPARTURES

04:45 Cairo (RJ)

06:00 Larnaca, Frankfurt (LH)

07:00 Agaba (RJ)

07:45 Beirut, Paris (AF)

07:50 Cairo (EA)

11:00 Vienna, New York (RJ)

11:15 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)

11:15 Frankfurt, Brussels (RJ)

11:30 Athens (GA)

11:55 Athens, Zurich (SR)

12:30 Paris, London (RJ)

12:30 Cairo (RJ)

14:30 Cairo (RJ)

15:30 Kuwait (KAC)

18:30 Baghdad (RJ)

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

It will be partly cloudy with a chance of scattered showers in the afternoon. Winds will be light and variable changing to southeasterly moderate. In Agaba it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm seas.

Low-high temperature in deg.C

Amman 5/13

Aqaba 11/22

Deserts 6/15

Jordan Valley 15/24

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 12, Aqaba 20. Humidity readings: Amman 58 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

MONEY EXCHANGE

Local sell-buy rates in fils

Belgian franc 74.1/ 74.5

Omani guilder 132.3/ 133.1

Egyptian guinea 329/ 332.1

French franc 97.5/ 98.6

Italian lire (for 100) 25.2/ 25.4

Japanese yen (for 100) 145.1/ 145.9

Kuwaiti dinar 1222.6/ 1223

Lebanese lira 89.5/ 90

Omani rial 1029/ 1031

Saudi riyal 97.5/ 98

Carrot 110.5/ 103.8

Swedish crown 48.1/ 48.4

Swiss franc 170.5/ 171.5

Syrian lira 62.2/ 62.4

UAE dirham 96.7/ 97.3

U.K. sterling pound 574.3/ 577.7

U.S. dollar 355.5/ 357.5

W. German mark 145.5/ 146.4

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

Ambulance 192, 75111

Fire, fire, police 199

Blood bank 75121

C

SPORTS

FIFA will keep 24-team format for World Cup

ZURICH (R) — The International Football Federation (FIFA) will stick by their ruling that 24 teams contest the World Cup finals, FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter said.

Blatter said FIFA had no intention of diluting the requirement, applied for the first time this year in Spain, extending the finals from 16 teams to 24.

He told Reuters in an interview on the eve of a series of FIFA meetings that the federation's executive committee would deal with the timetable for designating the 1986 World Cup host country.

He confirmed that the United States, Canada, Mexico and Brazil had officially indicated their interest in staging the tournament following the withdrawal of Colombia.

Blatter said an examining commission would visit applicants who

said they could conform with FIFA requirements. If only one country made such a declaration, a decision could be taken by the end of March. Otherwise the choice would be made at the next executive committee meeting in Stockholm on May 20, he said.

Blatter said the host country would be designated six years before the year of the finals. FIFA demands that the host nation build 12 stadiums with a minimum capacity of 40,000 for first round matches and stadiums with 80,000 capacity for the opening match and final rounds.

He said gate receipts for the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain totalled 40,059,000 Swiss francs (\$19,195,000)—10 per cent to FIFA, 25 per cent to Spain and 65 per cent shared among the final round qualifiers.

The executive committee is

expected to approve an agreement between the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and FIFA officials on rules governing eligibility of players for the 1984 soccer Olympics.

The IOC is under increasing pressure from national sports associations to liberalise existing amateur status regulations. The preliminary rounds for the 1984 tournament begin next month, before the next IOC executive committee, and they will be under the control and supervision of FIFA, Blatter said.

He said a two-year suspension on North Korea by the Asian Football Confederation would come up for confirmation by the FIFA executive committee. The suspension was imposed after North Korean players and supporters attacked the referee in a recent Asian Games semifinal.

Two of Europe's top teams clash in English League

LONDON (R) — Two of Europe's top teams clash in the English first division on Saturday in what may well be a dress rehearsal for next May's European Soccer Cup final.

European Champions Aston Villa meet League Champions and current leaders Liverpool in a clash of titans at Villa Park. And if past results are anything to go by, Villa are due to win.

Victories in this fixture have alternated between the two sides—who line up in the quarterfinals of the European Cup in March. Liverpool against Poland's Widzew Lodz and Villa against Italy's Juventus—for the past six seasons.

And with Villa winning 2-0 two years ago and Liverpool winning the last encounter 3-0, the Birmingham side are well aware it is their turn to take the honours. They have skipper Dennis Mor-

timer back after injury to bolster their midfield. Mortimer missed last week's 2-1 defeat at Arsenal but played in Villa's 2-0 defeat by Penarol in the World Club Championship final in Tokyo last Sunday.

Liverpool will be without their England stalwart Phil Thompson, injured in last weekend's 3-1 win over Watford, but Mark Lawrenson is fit to return after a groin strain.

Fourth-placed Villa have climbed steadily in recent weeks and could have gone top had they won at Arsenal last Tuesday. Liverpool head the table with 37 points, three clear of Manchester United in second place.

Luther Blissett, England's hat-trick hero against Luxembourg on Wednesday night, is doubtful for Watford's first division match at home to Ipswich because of a gashed left foot.

Blissett needed four stitches in the injury, which occurred during training Thursday, but he has not yet ruled himself out of the match. He will have a fitness test before manager Graham Taylor names the team.

Second placed Manchester United, seeking their fifth successive win, are likely to be unchanged for the match at Swansea. Defender Gordon McQueen is their only doubt but seems certain to pass a fitness test on a back injury.

Northern Ireland goalkeeper Pat Jennings, who has settled his recent differences with Arsenal, returns to the side to play at Sunderland. He comes in because George Wood has a two-game suspension to start on December 27th.

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton faces a late fitness test for Southampton's home game against West Bromwich Albion.



Ramtha striker Al Zu'bi chesting down the ball while being harassed by Al Faisaly defence.

Ramtha retains League crown

AMMAN (J.T.) — Al Ramtha Football Club retained the League Championship on Friday by winning the Premier Division. Ramtha's 2-1 victory over Al Faisaly Football Club at the Irbid municipal stadium, gave them a total of 28 points keeping them on top of the league leaving on chance for other teams in the division to catch them with the only remaining match of the season next week.

Second placed, Al Wihdat Football Club with 25 points were held to a 2-2 draw by Amman Football Club on Friday. Earlier in the season Al Wihdat won the Jordanian Football Federation Cup and the Charity Shield, which used to play annually between the Cup and League champions.

Al Faisaly had to be content with third place (24 points) this week. The final standings (other than the champions) will be decided next week at the close of the season.

Jordan wins Tae Kwan Do bronze medals

AMMAN (Petra) — The Jordanian national team of Tae Kwan Do returned to Amman on Wednesday after representing Jordan in the Asian fifth tournament held in Singapore from Dec. 6 to Dec. 11. The Jordanian team ranked the sixth in the tournament in which 17 countries participated. It was also awarded two bronze medals. The first medal was won by Abdul Samad Al Qur'an who defeated players from Thailand and the Philippines, and the second medal was won by Khalil Aql who won against competitors from India and Pakistan.

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Location: Opp. Gardens Restaurant.
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Jabal Lubwiddah, Hawoz Circle

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Saturday the 25th December

CHRISTMAS LUNCH at Amman Crown Hotel Al Marj Restaurant

Chicken soup with stuffed wheat
Stuffed turkey
Chicken Patee
Kubbeh, Burek, Sfeha
Fruits & Desserts

Note: Parents may bring in their special presents for distribution to their children by Father Christmas (Papa Noel) in addition to our gift.

Price JD 5 per person
JD 2 per child

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24th December, 1982

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Christmas Eve in style with a special festive dinner, with Christmas Carols.

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See Christmas Day in with our resident band and a traditional Eve Dinner. Hot Punch will be served after midnight.

25th December, 1982

LUNCHEON
A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
A Special Christmas Buffet Lunch with all the festive trimmings in our Ballroom. Warm up for an enjoyable day with our merry reception at noon.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S FILM SHOW & CARTOONS
DINNER AT THE RANCH AT 3:00 p.m.
COME FOR THE FAMOUS TURKEY SHOOT.

AMBASSADORS
With a few hours of Christmas day left, enjoy a fabulous dinner in the Ambassadors Night Club, with music and entertainment provided by our resident band and the exciting Paris Connection.

26th December, 1982

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY
3.00 p.m.
Santa Clause is staying on one extra day to give you a very special afternoon of fun and games. Cakes, Sweets, and Drinks and very Lucky dip.

31st December, 1982

NEW YEAR'S EVE
Welcome in the 1983 at the Holiday Inn. We will be bringing in the New Year in style with dinner, dancing, cabaret and parties.

AMBASSADORS
An unforgettable New Year Eve at this famous Amman Night Club, includes a Gala Dinner, dancing to a live band, a spectacular floor show and cabaret.

LE RELAIS
After a Champagne reception, enjoy a sumptuous six course dinner in elegant candlelit surroundings.

AMMAN BALLROOM
Celebrate New Year's Eve in style with a superb buffet, live band and cabaret.

REGINA'S DISCOTHEQUE
Special Buffet from 10.00 p.m. Dance the New Year in with the sounds of Today and Yesterday.

New Year's Day
5.00 a.m. In the early hours of the year a superb Champagne Breakfast will be served in our Coffee Shop and Churchill Restaurant.
12.00 Noon start the Year with a magnificent Buffet in the AMMAN BALLROOM.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR STALL
Christmas Log Cakes and New Year celebratory Cakes are available on sale in the Foyer.

ECONOMY

Arab-British Chamber of Commerce shows concern

LONDON (Agencies). — The board of the Arab-British Chamber of Commerce, which has concluded one of its regular meetings, has sent a message to Lord Cockfield, the secretary of state for trade, expressing the board's concern at a possible deterioration of relations between U.K. and Arab countries as a result of the British government's failure to receive the Arab summit's delegation, and pointing to the serious effects such a measure might have on Arab-British trade.

Trade with the member countries of the League of Arab States, the U.K.'s third largest market after the EEC and North America, has been increasing steadily over the years, according to a statement from the board.

Total exports in 1981 amounted to £3,823.5 million an increase of 15% on 1979, while the total of £4,754.6 million in 1981 showed a 26% increase on 1980, the statement said.

The figures for 1982 are not yet available but the first half year shows a 22.5% increase on the same period in 1981, it added.

On the eve of an OPEC meeting in Vienna, Saudi Oil Minister Ahmad Zaki Yamani was asked by the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), a trade news letter published in Nicosia, whether the issue of differentials was important.

Differentials are agreed premiums added to the \$34 reference price, which is fixed for Saudi light crude, to reflect the higher yield in refined products of superior grades.

Libya, Nigeria and Algeria charge a \$1.5 differential for their top grades. The Saudis say it should be higher—around \$3.8—and that until it is raised they are enjoying an unfair advantage in the market over Saudi Arabia which has seen its sales decline.

Asked whether the issue was important, Sheikh Yamani told MEES: "Definitely it is. We already made our position very clear at the Vienna OPEC conference last July, namely that if differentials are not corrected we are no longer bound by the OPEC market price."

OPEC watchers in Vienna said Sheikh Yamani was reiterating a well known Saudi position and noted that he had certainly not gone so far as to declare that Saudi Arabia would definitely cut its price if OPEC failed to settle the differentials issue.

They said they saw little prospect that the African producers would oblige the Saudis and raise prices.

But Sheikh Yamani's reported comments, suggesting that continued Saudi defence of the \$34 benchmark should not be taken for granted, sent jitters through the financial and oil markets.

In the interview, Sheikh Yamani said: "So far it is our policy to defend the official OPEC market price of \$34 a barrel, and we hope that all the other OPEC member countries will live up to their responsibilities in this regard."

Sheikh Yamani told MEES some members were discounting on the official price to exceed production quotas assigned to them in March to try to defend prices in the prevailing recession-led glut.

He did not name them but industry sources said they included Iran and Libya who argue that their quotas are too small.

They want Saudi Arabia to make room for them in the market and that issue is likely to be the chief source of discord at the OPEC meeting starting in Vienna Sunday when a majority wants to set new quotas to defend prices in 1983.

Libyan Heavy Industries Minister Omar Munasser predicted here that OPEC oil ministers would make no change in crude prices at their Vienna meeting Sunday.

Mr. Munasser is on a seven-day visit to Italy. He has already conferred with Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo and senior officials.

Iran will press for a crude oil production quota of three million barrels a day at the weekend meeting the national news agency IRNA said Friday.

It quoted Oil Minister Mohammad Gharazi as saying the 1.2 million barrel output quota allocated to Iran last March was unjust.

The Iranian oil minister said OPEC, in setting production quotas, should take account of factors such as production capacity, population, financial needs and foreign exchange reserves of member countries.

However, Iran has recently promised to stick to the official OPEC price to avert a price war threatened by some OPEC members.

Oil Minister Shahrabi of Indonesia told reporters he did not think demand would be much higher next year than in 1982 and that there was likely to be a seasonal dip in the northern spring.

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Yamani stresses premiums issue

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, said Friday it would no longer feel bound by the current Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reference price of \$34 a barrel if members of the oil exporters group did not reach what it would regard a satisfactory pricing agreement.

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FORECAST FOR SATURDAY, DEC. 18, 1982

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Schedule your time and activities well so that you can accomplish a great deal today. Check your surroundings and make plans for improvements. Be alert at all times today.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Situations arise today that can give you a new outlook on life. Engage in civic affairs that can be helpful to the community.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Handle routine chores and gain greater benefits. Be sure to keep promises you have made to others. Be wise.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Ideal day to engage in recreations with congenials. Handle home duties more efficiently and they become easier.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Studying new outlets and getting into new activities can bring more success in the future. Be logical.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Talk over with allies what you expect of them and vice versa, and come to a finer understanding. Something good can result.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Study what your true financial status is and make plans for improvement. The evening is fine for social pleasures.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Go after your most cherished personal wishes since there is a good opportunity to gain them now. Sidelstep a foe.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Good day to do some investigative work and come up with the right answers to a problem. Think constructively.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Exchange ideas with good friends for mutual gain. Show appreciation to those who have helped you in the past.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Delve into whatever will give you more prestige in the community. Take time for recreation in the evening.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Study a new outlet that could bring you added income in the future. You can now gain a long-time longing.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are now able to engage in interesting activities with friends and have a most delightful time. Be happy.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will know exactly how to get rid of tensions that arise and can be objective in solving difficult problems, so give an education dealing with arts and sciences for best results. Teach to work with hands.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

NEWS IN BRIEF

Greeks urged to accept austerity

ATHENS (R) — Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu, in a televised address to the nation, called on workers Thursday night to accept the need for an austere incomes policy in 1983. He said Greece needed higher productivity and technological progress if its goods were to become competitive, and unemployment, which he estimated at seven to eight per cent, were to fall. Under the 1983 incomes policy, which parliament made mandatory for private firms Thursday, workers' wages are to lag behind the inflation rate for the first eight months.

Volkswagen predicts loss

FRANKFURT (R) — Volkswagen, Europe's biggest carmaker, predicted Thursday that it would make a loss this year for the first time since 1975, as new signs of economic decline emerged in West Germany. During the first nine months of the year the Volkswagen group, with extensive operations in the United States and Latin America, was 146 million marks (\$60 million) in the red. The company's forecast of losses for the year as a whole came as the Bundesbank, West Germany's central bank, said the country's economy had slipped further into recession.

U.K. inflation rate falls

LONDON (R) — Britain's inflation rate fell last month to 6.3 per cent, its lowest level for more than 10 years, the employment ministry said Friday. The year-on-year increase in prices slipped from 6.8 per cent and Employment Minister Norman Tebbit forecast that lower mortgage rates would bring further falls to below six per cent early next year. The November figure was the lowest since July 1972. A year ago the rate was 12 per cent, and in August 1975 it touched its highest point of 26.9 per cent.

Franc-mark realignment denied

BRUSSELS (R) — West Germany and France Friday firmly denied widespread rumours on foreign exchange markets that they planned to realign their currencies in the European Monetary System (EMS). Confusion on foreign exchange markets had been exacerbated by the falling value of the dollar. French Finance Minister Jacques Delors said, Mr. Delors said the finance ministers meeting would focus on general discussion of the Community's economic outlook and budgetary policies.

THE BETTER HALF

By Harris



"Stanley will be late for work, Mr. Despot. He woke up grumpy and got into a fight with the dental floss."

Kremlin creates new inner-party body

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet leadership has created a new economic department in the Communist Party Central Committee, a report in the party daily Pravda indicated Friday.

In an account of a meeting in Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan, Pravda named one of the speakers as Mr. Boris Gostev and referred to him as the deputy director of the department.

It was the first time the existence of such a body had been mentioned.

Mr. Gostev was previously head of the committee's planning and finance department.

The fact that he had now become a deputy chief indicated that the new body was probably much larger than the small specialised groups have dealt with the economy up till now.

The creation of a new inner-party body appeared to be part of a series of changes in the upper levels of the party hierarchy since Mr. Yuri Andropov became party chief last month.

These have included the appointments of new chiefs to the propaganda department and Komsomol youth organisation and of new deputy foreign ministers.

The central committee has more than 20 specialised departments which have a decision-making role for all aspects of Soviet economic and political life.

The establishment of an economic department followed calls by Mr. Andropov for a major effort to revive the country's sluggish industrial and agricultural performance.

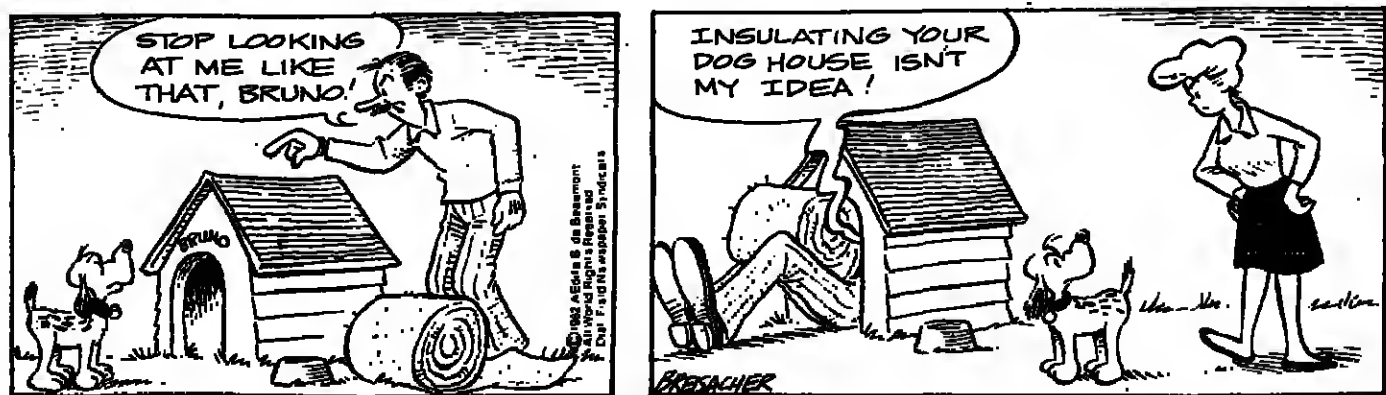
The new body would centralise control and guidance and possibly help overcome the disputes and lack of coordination between various economic branches of which Mr. Andropov complained in a major speech last month.

The new department also appeared likely to be headed by a senior economics expert, possibly candidate politburo member Mr. Vladimir Dolgikh, who has wide experience of industrial management and planning.

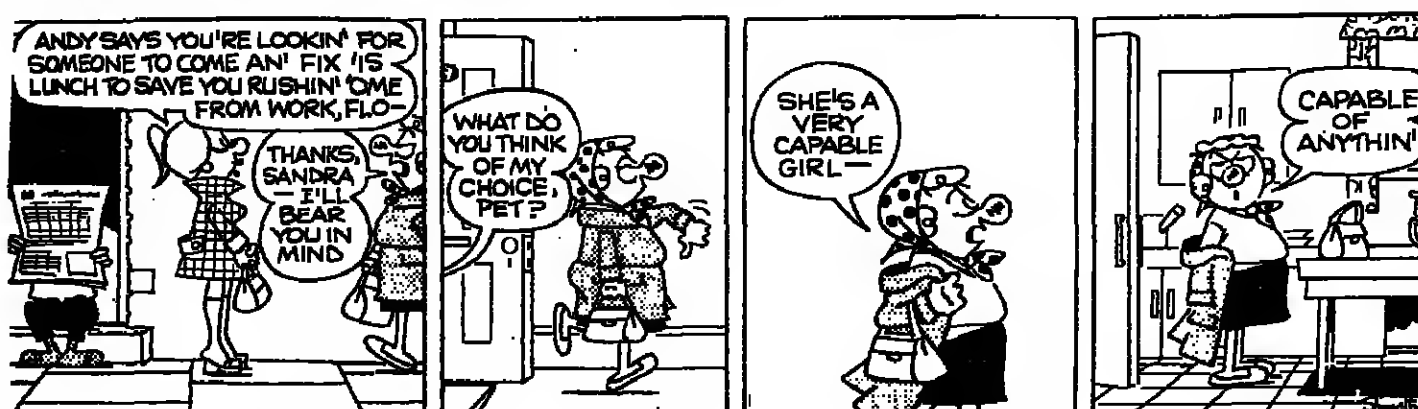
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



WORLD

Senate rejects effort to kill funds for MX production

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Senate Friday rejected an effort to kill MX production funding and approved President Reagan's compromise plan to win ultimate congressional approval of funds for the powerful new missile.

An amendment to kill the production funding was defeated 70 to 28. The Senate then approved 56 to 42 the compromise granting the funds but prohibiting their being spent until Congress approves a basing system for the missile.

The effort to kill the production funds was led by assistant Senate Democratic leader Alan Cranston of California and Democratic Sen. Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The House rejected 245-176 last week the president's request for \$988 million to build the first five MX missiles next year and they urged to Senate to do the same.

Mr. Cranston said the MX would "increase the risk of nuclear war" by tempting the Soviet Union to launch a nuclear attack before the MX missiles could destroy its missiles.

But supporters of the missile, led by Democratic Sen. Henry Jackson of Washington State, agreed with Mr. Reagan that the MX was needed to counter a Soviet missile buildup.

Under the compromise, the president is required to report on March 1 or later whether he still wants his controversial "dense pack" basing system or some other plan and Congress would have to give final approval to a basing system within 45 days.

Opponents led by Democratic Sen. Ernest Hollings, said "dense

pack" was dead because it would not work and said no deadline should be put on congressional consideration of an entire new basing system.

"We have put 'dense pack' to bed and now let's go forward and look for a survivable missile and a survivable basing mode," he said.

But Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger has told Congress the request next year will still be for "dense pack." He said he believed Congress would accept it after more study.

"Dense pack" would put 100 MX missiles close together in reinforced-concrete silos in the state of Wyoming.

The theory behind "dense pack" is that Soviet missiles hitting such a small area would destroy each other, allowing half the MX missiles to survive and counterattack.

A conference committee of senators and House members must now work out a compromise on the MX production funding for final approval by Congress.

The Senate also approved Friday without debate \$11.5 billion for foreign aid, including a \$475 million increase for Israel that the administration opposed.

Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Dam said the increase would hurt President Reagan's Middle East peace proposal by angering Arab countries and rewarding Israeli intransigence.

The resolution would increase Israel's aid to \$2.6 billion including \$910 million for economic aid and 1.7 billion for military credit loans, half of which would be written off.

Parliament outlaws new British immigration laws

LONDON (R) — British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher suffered an embarrassing parliamentary defeat Thursday when right wingers in her Conservative Party rebelled against immigration rules they said would admit too many Asians.

The right wingers joined the Labour, Liberal and Social Democratic parties, who denounced the new rules from the opposite standpoint as racist and sexist, to defeat the measure by 290 votes to 272.

The unexpected upset was another blow to Home Secretary William Whitelaw, who is responsible for law enforcement and immigration and who has been attacked by Members of Parliament who want tougher policing and harsher punishment of criminals.

A cabinet shuffle is widely expected soon, but officials said the home secretary was in no danger of losing his job. "Attempts to get rid of Willie Whitelaw will fail," one of Mrs. Thatcher's aides said.

Mr. Whitelaw is the most influential figure in the Conservative Party's out-of-favour moderate faction.

The immigration issue is a frequent point of contention within the ruling party, which was dominated by moderates like Mr. Whitelaw for a generation until Mrs. Thatcher won the leadership from former Prime Minister Edward Heath.

The middle-of-the-road Liberal Party offered Thursday to back Mr. Whitelaw against his rebels and help him pass the measure if he would put it forward in a slightly less restrictive form.

Immigration has long been a sensitive political subject in Britain, and the government's defeat in the House of Commons followed a noisy wrangle that lasted until early morning.

Sixteen Conservative Members of Parliament voted against revised rules which would have allowed immigrant women who take British citizenship to bring husbands or fiancés to this country. About 30 Conservatives defied party managers by abstaining.

Officials say about 3,000 Indians, Pakistanis and Bangladeshis a year will be affected by these rules.

The custom of arranged marriages can bring together Asian couples who have never met, and right wingers regard this as a loophole in immigration restraints.

The old rules gave men a greater right to bring in brides than it allowed women to bring in bridegrooms. Mr. Whitelaw felt they conflicted with the European code on human rights.

Concessions made to conservative right wingers during drafting retained a distinction between men and women, leading the opposition parties to vote against them.

Oddly, the rules which were defeated will nevertheless go into effect on a temporary basis on Jan. 1 as part of a long-planned revision of the country's citizenship laws. Mr. Whitelaw has 40 days to come up with new proposals.

The package as a whole distinguishes the Britons of Britain itself from the peoples of colonies like Hong Kong and from minority residents of former colonies who chose to keep British passports when the countries they lived in won independence.

Alliance sceptical of Moscow's reported hint

LONDON (R) — Western arms control experts have said that there is no hard evidence to back up reports that Moscow may be ready to halve its medium-range nuclear missile force.

The reported offer was vague and seemed to be based on an attempt to juggle figures, they said. It would still leave the Soviet Union with a substantial force of SS-20s aimed at targets in Western Europe.

British Foreign Secretary Francis Pym has cast serious doubt on suggestions that Moscow was weighing a cutback from about 600 intermediate-range missiles to around 250.

The reports were "not in accordance with our understanding," and would need to be probed further, he told Parliament.

Other British, U.S. and West European experts said the reports, which first appeared in the U.S. press last weekend, were misleading and could raise false hopes.

They said the ideas may have been floated by Moscow in an attempt to get the West to back off from a U.S.-sponsored zero option proposal in current arms talks.

This is designed to bar all U.S. and Soviet medium-range missiles from Europe.

Already, some European politicians have said the hints from Moscow could mean something and that the West should consider a partial cutback if the zero option proves unattainable.

The flurry of interest began with a New York Times report that Soviet diplomats in the Geneva arms talks had indicated readiness to limit their midrange missile force to 150 targeted on Western Europe and 100 aimed at Asia, including China.

Officials contacted in European capitals said the ideas were aired informally before the U.S.-Soviet negotiations adjourned on Nov. 30 and would be checked out when the year-long talks resume on 27.

"Just a hint"

"This was not a formal proposal, just a hint or suggestion," a senior British government arms analyst said.

President Reagan said this week the reported offer "isn't adequate" and would leave the West considerably disadvantaged. The U.S. State Department called the ideas "indications of a fragmentary nature," and Mr. Pym said they were imprecise.

The Soviet ideas were offered on condition that NATO would abandon plans for the basing of 572 U.S. Pershing II and Cruise

missiles in five West European countries, starting late in 1983. They were described as a refinement of an original Soviet proposal that each side should cut back to a total of 300 medium-range weapons, including missiles and bombers.

The U.S. says Moscow has installed 333 of the triple-warhead SS-20s, with about two-thirds targeted on Western Europe.

Western experts said the suggested 50 per cent overall cut seemed to be based on a Soviet count of roughly 330 SS-20s and 260 older SS-4s and SS-5s now in place on Soviet territory.

As the SS-4s and SS-5s are already due for retirement, it would imply the dismantling of about 80 to 90 of the 240-250 SS-20s now pointed at Western Europe.

It would still leave 150 in the western USSR within range of Western cities and 100 in eastern areas which could be quickly transported to face Westwards, the experts said.

It would also leave the U.S. with no medium-range missiles capable of hitting the Soviet Union from European land bases. Existing U.S. missiles aimed at the Soviet Union are based in the United States or on submarines and aircraft.

Some NATO sources said Moscow may be trying to split the West by hinting that it is finally ready to scrap some SS-20s.

French, British weapons

Previously, Moscow offered only to shift some of them beyond the Ural mountains, out of range of Western Europe.

The new Soviet formula seemed to be based on the Kremlin's repeated insistence that it should be compensated for British and French medium-range missiles already deployed.

The Soviet Union has demanded from the start that the two European independent nuclear deterrent forces should be counted within an overall Western total. The West has so far refused to negotiate on British and French weapons.

The 150 European-targeted missiles to be retained by Moscow under the new plan would coincide roughly with 64 British Polaris submarine missiles and 97 French submarine and land-based missiles.

Western experts suspect the Soviet Union intends to count about 90 British and French planes within the remaining 150 nuclear-capable aircraft which the West would be allowed to deploy, within the total ceiling of 300 medium-range weapons.

According to the report, the proportion of the world's children who live without adequate food, water, health care and education will stay about the same until 2000. But the absolute number will grow by 30 per cent to between 600 and 650 million.

The report says that, excluding the cost of measures such as immunising every child against killer diseases, a direct assault on the worst aspects of hunger and malnutrition would cost \$6 billion a year, or one per cent of the world's annual expenditure on armaments.

It says: "Every day of this last year, more than 40,000 young children have died from malnutrition and infection."

"And for every one who has died, six now live on in hunger and ill-health which will be etched forever, upon their lives."

The report notes that between

Solidarity chief meets reporters

GDANSK (R) — Lech Walesa, leader of Poland's banned Solidarity union, who was prevented by the authorities from addressing supporters Thursday, told reporters Friday he was resolved to carry on the struggle to regain worker rights, but using only peaceful methods.

Mr. Walesa, who remained silent after his release from internment last month while he assessed the political situation, said: "The time for watching is over."

Speaking at his home in the Zaspas working class suburb of Gdansk, Mr. Walesa said when asked what he would do in the future: "The same as before August, during August and afterwards."

"I don't want to topple the authorities, but in the best way I can I want to improve conditions and fight for the cause of the working world."

He said he wanted to carry through the principles of the independent Solidarity union, banned in October, in a "peaceful way, the way of partnership and understanding."

Asked his opinion of the new trade unions being established by the authorities, he said: "I am for pluralism and hindering the creation of new unions would be undemocratic. I am asking for a possibility of finding a place in some unions. But the new unions in their present form do not interest me."

Asked his opinion of the new trade unions being established by the authorities, he said: "I am for pluralism and hindering the creation of new unions would be undemocratic. I am asking for a possibility of finding a place in some unions. But the new unions in their present form do not interest me."

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1 dead, 65 hurt in Buenos Aires rally

BUENOS AIRES (R) — A huge anti-government rally erupted in violence and death Thursday night with riot police firing tear gas canisters into crowds demanding an end to six years of military rule.

Police said one young man was shot dead and 65 people were injured in the disorders that followed a "march for democracy" by 100,000 demonstrators calling for a return to civilian government.

Political party officials described the rally in central Buenos Aires as the most violent in Argentina's capital since the military seized power in 1976.

Police said 35 civilians and 30 of their own men were injured. There were 120 arrests.

An interior ministry official blamed the violence on more than 2,000 "strongly organised infiltrators" who tried to break through police lines guarding the presidential palace facing the Plaza de Mayo Square where the rally was held.

Demonstrators scrambled to safety as police sprayed tear gas into the crowd waving banners and chanting anti-military slogans in the square, rally organisers said.

Street lamps, shop windows and subway signs were shattered in the melee. Demonstrators lit bonfires at street corners in attempts to disperse the tear gas wafting over

the square and surrounding thoroughfares.

Six political parties were represented at the rally calling for a return to democracy.

President Reynaldo Bignone, an army general, has announced that elections will be held in the last quarter of next year and has pledged to hand over power not later than March 1984.

Police superintendent Francisco Satej told a news conference that 10 of the injured officers were badly hurt, one with a broken skull.

Violence flared on the police line when a group of leftwing Montoneros guerrillas hurled rocks at policemen, the superintendent said. He added that five other leftist groups played a major role in the disturbances.

The army says that the Montoneros, armed wing of an extreme leftist branch of the Peronist Party, were crushed during an anti-guerrilla military campaign in the late 1970s.

Human rights groups have accused security forces of being responsible for the disappearance of up to 30,000 people during the crackdown.

One of the major demands at the rally was for an accounting of the missing thousands.

Asked what has prevented the withdrawal to this point, Mr. Salem replied, "because some people are difficult."

Mr. Salem expressed confidence that a withdrawal can be arranged even though each of the three forces has set conditions concerning the withdrawal of the other two.

"These forces should all withdraw from Lebanon," he said, "and it is unfair for any force to say 'I will not withdraw until the other one has.'"

He said the withdrawal could be arranged in a "package in which all of them will withdraw, using adjectives such as 'simultaneous' 'concurrent' or 'a little bit after'."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Shultz lauds multinational force

PARIS (Agencies) — The multinational force in Lebanon is "an example of outstanding cooperation and collaboration," and "is working very well," U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz reported at a press conference. There is the possibility of expanding the force, he said, but that would require consultation. Mr. Shultz said that he and French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson agreed that "as developments take place in Lebanon and as it may emerge that new and additional missions for the multinational force might be put on the table, we both said we are quite ready to look at these."

Grace the unwashed upsets Soviet press

MOSCOW (R) — Russian parents are giving their children names such as Genius, Commentaria and Elektron, a Moscow newspaper complained Friday, saying it was time the practice stopped. "The names are sometimes extravagant, pretentious, or downright illiterate," the daily Kommunist says. Other examples included Bayadera, which means "woman of pleasure," and one luckless girl was called Gratsia Nyeumitova, which translates as "grace the unwashed."

Filipino editorial staff on trial

MANTILA (R) — An opposition newspaper editor and nine of his staff were accused of mounting a vilification campaign against Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos when their trial on charges of subversion opened here. The first prosecution witness, Col. Balbino Diego of the presidential security command, said in an affidavit that he "has consistently incited the people to rise in arms against the government through its slanted news reporting and its regular columns."

Liechtenstein finds out its mistake

VADUZ (R) — Liechtenstein, a principality so conservative it still refuses to give women the vote, has discovered to its horror that it has been using Communist school books for the past five years to teach writing to its pupils. The government, which assumed the East German books were Swiss since they were delivered by a Zurich company, has now banned their use, a spokesman said Friday. The real origin of the books went unnoticed until a local newspaper complained about the ideological content of sentences used to teach German writing and punctuation. According to the Liechtensteiner Volksblatt, the book instructed pupils to practise their newly-learned writing skills with sentences such as: "I love party everything good and beautiful in life."

Evren files from China to Indonesia

JAKARTA (R) — Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived Friday for a four-day official visit to Indonesia as part of an Asian tour. The Turkish head of state, who was greeted at the airport by President Suharto with a 21-gun salute and a guard of